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LOST BEAUTIES  
OF THE  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE.



LOST BEAUTIES  
OF THE  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE:

*AN APPEAL TO AUTHORS, POETS, CLERGYMEN, AND  
PUBLIC SPEAKERS.*

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## INTRODUCTION.



MANY learned and interesting works have been written on the origin, growth, and present state of the English language, but, as far as the author of the present work is aware, none has been written to point out the many losses which it has suffered, and which it is still suffering, from time, corruption, and change of literary fashion. Of all the languages of the world, the English has the greatest power of assimilating to and incorporating with itself the useful words—whether of trade, sentiment, poetry, or science—with which it comes into contact, in the cosmopolitan developments of society, which are the great characteristics of the present age.

The English is essentially a living and a growing speech. All the languages of antiquity have had their tender infancy; their passionate youth; their careful maturity; their gradual, though it may be imperceptible, decay, and, finally, their death. After death has come the apotheosis of a language, if it has been worthy of such honour—or burial in the books, which, like the remains or memorials of ancient heroes, become the sacred treasure of newer ages. All lan-

guages pass through these stages in their career. Sanscrit, Gaelic, Greek, and Latin are familiar examples of the death and sanctity of great and mighty tongues that were once living powers to sway the passions and guide the reason of men. In their ashes even yet live the wonted fires that scholars love to rekindle. The languages of modern Europe that have sprung directly from the Sanscrit and Celtic, may all be said to have passed their infancy and youth, and to have reached maturity, if not old age. The Celtic languages—all sprung from an ancient Oriental root, and which include Scottish and Irish Gaelic, Manx, Cymric, and Breton—are in the last stage of vitality, destined to disappear, at no very remote period, into the books, which will alone preserve their memory. Were it not for Victor Hugo, and some recent borrowings from the English, it might be said that French had ceased to expand, and had become stereotyped into a form no longer to be modified. Spanish, Portuguese, and Italian hold their own ; and that is all that can be said of them. German, and the languages sprung from the same root and stem, contain within themselves such immense resources, and are so continually evolving new compounds, as to free them from that reproach of stagnation which may not unjustly be applied to the other great tongues which we have enumerated. But English—which, taken all in all, may be considered by far the richest, though not the most beautiful or the most sonorous, of all the languages spoken in our day—is yet in its vigorous youth, and cannot be accused of exhibiting any symptoms of decay. It is doubtful whether it have yet reached the full maturity of its prime, or whether the mighty nation now existent in America, or the as mighty nation which is destined yet to arise in Australia, will not, as time rolls on, and new wants are created, new circumstances encountered, and new ideas evolved out of the progress of science and civilization, add many thousands of new words to our already copious vocabulary. Other languages are dainty in the mate-

rials of their increment ; but the English is, like man himself, omnivorous. Nothing comes amiss to its hungry palate. It does not live on air and honey-dew, or even on bread, like more delicate organisations. All nature—all the languages of the earth—administer to its wants. It borrows, it steals, it assimilates what words it pleases from all the points of the compass, and asks no questions of them, but that they shall express thoughts and describe circumstances more tersely and more accurately than any of the old words beside which they are invited to take their places. Saxon, Celtic, Greek, Latin, French, Arabic, Turkish, Persian, have all helped it ; and the once despised, but beautiful, dialect of its Scottish sister has given it many poetical words, which it is not likely to part with. But if English is thus perpetually growing and gaining, it is at the same time perpetually losing. Were it not for the noble translation of the Bible, and for Chaucer, Gower, and the poets of the Elizabethan age, it would have lost still more than it has of its early treasures, and would have been Latinised to an extent that would have impaired its vigour, emasculated its passion, and deprived it of that sturdy vernacular which is the richest element in its blood, and best serves to build up its bone and muscle. If few languages now spoken in the world have gained so much as the English from the progress of civilization, it must be admitted, at the same time, that few have lost so much, and lost it without necessity. It has been said that a good carpenter is known as much by the shape as by the quantity of his chips ; and the chips that the English tongue has thrown off from the days of *Piers Ploughman* to our own betoken, both by quality and quantity, what a plethora of wealth it possesses, and what a very cunning carpenter Time has proved in working with such abundant materials.

It is one of the current assertions which, once started on high authority, are very rarely questioned, that the writings of Chaucer are a “well of English undefiled.” Chau-

cer's well, limpid and beautiful as it is, and undefiled as grammarians and critics may please to consider it, is not so much a fountain as a double stream. Chaucer, though so ancient in our eyes, was a neologist, and strove rather to increase the wealth of the written English, of which he was so great a master, by the introduction of words from the Norman-French, little understood by the bulk of the people, though familiar enough to the aristocracy, for whom he mainly wrote, than to fix in his pages for ever the strong simple words of his native Anglo-Saxon. The stream of native English in his writings runs pure and cool; the stream of Norman-French runs pure and bright also; but the two currents that he employed in his song never thoroughly intermingled, and at least nine-tenths of the elegant Gallicisms which he employed found no favour with succeeding writers; and few of them have remained, except in the earlier poems of Milton. If we really wish to discover the true "well of English undefiled," where the stream runs clear and unmixed, we must look to the author of *Piers Ploughman* rather than to Chaucer. We shall there find a large vocabulary of strong words, which are plain to all men's comprehension—preserved in the Bible, and in the common speech of the peasantry, and, notably, in that living branch of the old English language which is known as the Scottish dialect.

No such systematic attempt as that made by Chaucer to popularise words of French origin, was essayed by Scottish writers of that time; not even by King James I.—the illustrious author of the *King's Quair*. Yet, in consequence of the friendly intercourse long subsisting between France and Scotland—an intercourse that was alike political, commercial, and social—a considerable number of words of French origin crept into the Scottish vernacular, and there established themselves with a tenacity that is not likely to be relaxed as long as the language continues to be either written or spoken. Some of

these are among the most racy and characteristic differences between the English and the Scotch. It will be sufficient to cite—to *fash one's self*, to be troubled with or about anything—from *se fâcher*, to be angered; *douce*, gentle, good-tempered, courteous—from *doux*, soft; *dour*, grim, obdurate, slow to forgive or relent—from *dur*, hard; *bien*, comfortable, well-to-do in worldly affairs—from *bien*, well; *ashet*, a dish—from *assiette*, a plate; *creel*, a fish-basket—from *creille*, a basket; a *gigot* of mutton—from *gigot*, a leg; *awmrie*, a linen-press or plate-cupboard—from *armoire*, a movable cupboard or press; *bonnie*, beautiful and good—from *bon*, good; *airles* and *airle-penny*, money paid in advance to seal a bargain—from *arrhes*, a deposit on account; *brulzie*, a fight or dispute—from *s'embrouiller*, to quarrel; *callant*, a lad, a brave boy—from *galant*, a lover or a gallant youth; *braw*, fine—from *brave*, honest and courageous; *dool*, sorrow—from *deuil*, mourning; *grozet*, a gooseberry (which is a popular English corruption from *gorseberry*)—from *groseille*; *taupie*, a thoughtless, foolish girl, who does not look before her to see what she is doing—from *taupe*, a mole; *haggis*, the Scottish national dish—from *hachis*, a hash; *pawn*, peacock—from *paon*; *caddie*, a young man acting as a porter or messenger—from *cadet*, the younger born; *spaule*, the shoulder—from *épaule*, &c.

The Scoto-Saxon and Old English words derived immediately from the Dutch, and following the Dutch rules of pronunciation, are exceedingly numerous. Among these are *wanhope*—from *wanhooop*, despair; *wanchancie*, *wanlust*, *wanrestful*, and many others, where the English adopt the German *un* instead of *wan*.

The English and Scottish words derived from the Gaelic are apparent in the names of places and in much of the colloquial phraseology of everyday life. Among the first, *ben*, *glen*, *burn*, *burnie*, *strath*, *bog*, *corrie*, *crag* or *craig*, and *cairn*, will recur to the memory of any one who has lived or travelled in Scotland, or is conversant with Scottish literature. *Gillie*, a boy or servant;

*gricve*, a land-steward or agent, are not only ancient Scottish words, but have lately become English. *Loof*, the open palm, is derived from the Gaelic *lamh* (pronounced *laff* or *lav*), the hand; *cuddle*, to embrace—from *cadail*, sleep; *whisky*, from *uisge*, water; *clachan*, a village—from *clach*, a stone; *croon*, to hum a tune—from *cruin*, to lament or moan; *bailie*, a city or borough magistrate—from *baile*, a town; *tinder*, from *teine*, fire; *sonsie*, fresh, healthful, young, good-looking—from *sonas*, good fortune; *grove*, an assemblage of trees—from *craobh*, pronounced *craov*, a tree; *fallow*, lying uncultivated, from *falamb*, pronounced *fallav*, empty—may serve as specimens of the many words which the Scoto-Saxon and Anglo-Saxon languages owe to the Gaelic or Celtic stock that originally possessed these islands.

Four centuries ago, the English or Anglo-Saxon, when Chaucer, Gower, and Lydgate were still intelligible, had a much greater resemblance to the Scoto-Saxon than it has at the present day. William Dunbar, one of the earliest, as he was one of the best, of the Scottish poets, and supposed to have been born in 1465, in the reign of James III. in Scotland, and of Edward IV. in England, wrote, among other poems, the “Thrissel and the Rose.” This composition was equally intelligible to the people of both countries. It was designed to commemorate the marriage of James IV. with Margaret Tudor, daughter of King Henry VII. of England—that small cause of many great events, of which the issues have extended to our time, and which gave the Stuarts their title to the British throne. Though Dunbar wrote in the Scotch of the *literati*, rather than in that of the common people, as did King James I. at an earlier period, when, a captive in Windsor Castle, he indited his beautiful poem, “The King’s Quair,” to celebrate the grace and loveliness of the Lady Beaufort, whom he afterwards married; the “Thrissel and the Rose” is only archaic in its orthography, and contains no words that a commonly

well-educated Scottish ploughman cannot at this day understand, though it might puzzle some of the writers of leaders for the London press to interpret it without the aid of a glossary. Were the spelling of the following passages modernised, it would be found that there is nothing in any subsequent poets, from Dunbar's day to our own, with which it need fear a comparison, either in point of poetry or of popular comprehension :—

“ Quhen Merché wes with variand windis past,  
And Apryll haddé, with her silver shouris,  
Tane leif at nature, with ane orient blast,  
And lusty May, that mudder is of flouris,  
Had maid the birdis to begyn their houris  
Among the tender odouris reid and quhyt,  
Qnhois harmony to heir it was delyt.

“ In bed at morrowe, sleiping as I lay,  
Methocht Aurora, with her crystal een,  
In at the window lukit by the day,  
And halsit me with visage paille and grene,  
On quhois hand a lark sang fro the splene,  
‘ Awauk, luvaris ! out of your slummering !  
See how the lusty morrowe dois upspring ! ’ ”

Many of the popular authors of that century did not, like Dunbar, confine their poetic efforts to the speech of the learned, but wrote in the vernacular of the peasantry and townspeople. The well-known poem of “Peblis to the Play” is the earliest specimen of this class of literature that has come down to us. This composition scarcely contains a word that Burns, three hundred years later, would have hesitated to employ. In like manner the poem of “Christ's Kirk on the Green,” written more than three hundred years ago, made use of the language of the peasantry to describe the assembly of the lasses and their wooers that came to the “dancing and deray,” with their gloves of the “*raffle richt*” (right doeskin), their “shoon of the *straitis*” (coarse cloth), and their

“ Kirtles of the *lincum* light,  
Weel pressed wi’ mony plaitis.”

The author’s description of “Gillie” is equal to anything in Ramsay or Burns, and quite as intelligible to the Scottish peasantry of the present day :—

“ Of all their maidens mild as meid  
Was nane sae gynp as Gillie ;  
As ony rose her rude was reid,  
Hir lire was like the lily.  
Bot zallow, zallow was hir heid,  
And sche of luif sae sillie,  
Thof a’ hir kin suld hae bein deid,  
Sche wuld hae bot sweit Willie.”

Captain Alexander Montgomerie, who was attached to the service of the Regent Murray in 1577, and who enjoyed a pension from King James VI., wrote many poems in which the beauty, the strength, and the humour of the Scoto-Saxon language were very abundantly displayed. The “Cherry and the Slae” is particularly rich in words that Allan Ramsay, Walter Scott, Robert Burns, and Christopher North have since rendered classical, and is, besides, a poem as excellent in thought and fancy as it is copious in diction. The description of the music of the birds on a May morning may be taken as a specimen :—

“ The cushat croods, the corbie cries,  
The Coukoo couks, the prattling pies  
To keckhir they begin.  
The jargon o’ the jangling jays,  
The craiking craws and kecklin’ kayes,  
They deaved me with their din.

“ The painted pawn with Argus e’es  
Can on his mayock call ;  
The turtle wails on withered trees,  
And Echo answers all.  
Repeting, with greting,  
How fair Narcissus fell,  
By lying and spying  
His schadow in the well.”



Time was within living memory when the Scotch of the upper classes prided themselves on what was called "their native Doric;" when judges on the bench delivered their judgments in the broadest Scotch, and would have thought themselves guilty of puerile and unworthy affectation if they had preferred English words or English accents to their own; when advocates pleaded in the same homely and plastic tongue; when ministers of religion found their best way to the hearts and to the understanding of their congregations in the use of the language most familiar to themselves, as well as to those whom they addressed; and when ladies of the highest rank—celebrated alike for their wit and their beauty—sang their tenderest, archest, and most affecting songs, and made their bravest thrusts and parries in the sparkling encounters of conversation, in the homely speech of their childhood. All this, however, is fast disappearing, and not only the wealthy and titled, who live much in London and in England, begin to grow ashamed of speaking the language of their ancestors, though the sound of the well-beloved accents in the mouths of others is not unwelcome or unmusical to their ears, but the middle-class Scotch are learning to follow their example. The members of the legal and medical profession are afraid of the accusation of vulgarity that might be launched against them if they spoke publicly in the picturesque language of their fathers and grandfathers; and even the clergy are unlearning in the pulpit the brave old speech that was good enough for John Knox (though he was the greatest Angliciser of his day, and was publicly accused of that fault), and many thousands of pious preachers who, since his time, have worthily kept alive the faith of the Scottish people by appeals to their consciences in the language of their hearts. In ceasing to employ the "unadorned eloquence" of the sturdy vernacular, and using instead of it the language of books, and of the southern English, it is to be feared that too many of these superfine preachers have lost their former hold upon the mind,

and that they have sensibly weakened the powers of persuasion and conviction which they possessed when their words were in sympathetic unison with the current of thought and feeling that flowed through the broad Scottish intellect and language of the peasantry. And where fashion leads, snobbism will certainly follow ; so that it happens even in Scotland that young Scotsmen of the Dundreary class will sometimes boast of their inability to understand the poetry of Burns and the romance of Scott on account of the difficulties presented by the language ? —as if their crass ignorance were a thing to be proud of !

The English and Scotch languages are both mainly derived from the Teutonic ; and five or six hundred years ago, may be correctly described as having been Anglo-Saxon and Scoto-Saxon. Time has replaced the Anglo-Saxon by the modern English, but has spared the Scoto-Saxon, which still remains a living speech. Though the children of one mother, the two have lived apart, received different educations, developed themselves under dissimilar circumstances, and received accretions from independent and unrelated sources. The English, as far as it remains an Anglo-Saxon tongue, is derived from the Low German, with a mixture of the Scandinavian and Icelandic, while the Lowland Scotch, or Scoto-Saxon, is indebted more immediately to the Dutch, Flemish, and Danish, both for its fundamental and most characteristic words, and for its inflection and grammar. The English, like the Teutonic, bristles with consonants. The Scotch is as spangled with vowels as a meadow with daisies in the month of May. English, though perhaps the most muscular and copious language in the world, is harsh and sibilant ; while the Scotch, with its beautiful terminational diminutives, is almost as soft as the Italian. English songs, like those of Dibdin, Moore, and Campbell, however excellent they may be as poetical compositions, are, for these reasons, not so available for musical purposes, as the songs of Scotland. An Englishman, if he sings of a “pretty little girl,” uses words

deficient in euphony, and suggests comedy rather than sentiment ; but when a Scotsman sings of a “ bonnie wee lassie,” he employs words that are much softer than their English equivalents, express a tenderer idea, and are infinitely better adapted to music. The principal components of the Scoto-Saxon tongue are derived, first from the Teutonic, comprising many words once possessed by the English, but which have become obsolete in the latter ; secondly, words and inflections derived from the Dutch, Flemish, and Norse ; thirdly, words derived from the French, or from the Latin and Greek through a French medium ; and fourthly, words derived from the Gaelic, which is indubitably a branch of the Sanscrit. As regards the first source, it is interesting to note that in the glossary appended to Mr. Thomas Wright’s edition of those ancient and excellent alliterative poems, the “ Vision” and “ Creed” of *Piers Ploughman*, there occur about two thousand obsolete English or Anglo-Saxon words, many of which are still retained in the Scoto-Saxon of the Scottish Lowlands ; and that in the Glossary to Tyrwhitt’s edition of Chaucer, there occur upwards of six thousand words which need explanation to the modern English reader, and full one half of which need no explanation whatever to a Scotsman. Even Shakespeare is becoming obsolete to his countrymen, and uses upwards of two thousand four hundred words, which Mr. Howard Staunton, his latest, and in many respects, his most judicious editor, thinks it necessary to collect in a glossary for the better elucidation of the text. Many hundreds of these words are perfectly familiar to a Scottish ear, and require no interpreter. It appears from these facts, that the Scotch is a far more conservative language than the English, and that although it does not object to receive new words, it clings reverently and affectionately to the old. The consequence of this mingled tenacity and elasticity is, that it possesses a vocabulary which includes for a Scotsman’s use, every word of the modern English language, and several thousand words which the English

people never possessed, or have suffered to drop into desuetude. In addition to this conservancy of the bone and sinew of the language, the Scoto-Saxon possesses an advantage over the modern English, in having reserved to itself the power, while retaining all the old words of the language, to eliminate all harsh or unnecessary consonants. Thus it has *lo'* for love : *fa'* for fall ; *wa'* for walk ; *awfu'* for awful ; *sma'* for small ; and many hundreds of similar abbreviations, which detract nothing from the force of the idea or the clearness of the meaning, while they soften the roughness of the expression. No such power resides in the English or French, though it was once inherent in both languages. Very little of it belongs to the German, though it remains in all those European tongues which trace their origin to the Platt-Deutsch. The Scottish poet or versifier may write *fa'* or *fall* as it pleases him, but his English compeer must write "fall" without abbreviation. Another source of the superior euphony of the Scoto-Saxon is the single diminutive in *ie*, and the double diminutive in *kie*, which may be applied to any noun in the language, as *wife*, *wifie*, *wifkie*, wife, little wife, very little wife ; *bairn*, *bairnie*, *bairnikie*, child, little child, very little child ; *bird*, *birdie*, *birdikie* ; and *lass*, *lassie*, *lassikie*, etc. A few English nouns remain susceptible of diminutives, though in a less musical form, as *lamb*, *lambkin* ; *goose*, *gosling*, etc. The beauty of the Scottish forms of the diminutive is obvious. Take, for instance, the following lines :—

" Hap and row, hap and row,  
Hap and row the feetie o't ;  
It is a wee bit wearie thing,  
I downa bide the greetie o't."

Endeavour to translate into modern English the diminutives "feetie" and "greetie," and the superiority of the Scottish or old English for poetical purposes will be obvious.

But the old Scottish language, though of later years it has become unfashionable in its native land, survives not alone on the tongue, but in the heart of the "common" people (and

where is there such a common or uncommon people as the peasantry of Scotland?), and has established for itself a place in the affections of those ardent Scotsmen who travel to the New World and to the remotest parts of the Old, with the *auri sacra fames* to lead them on to fortune, but who never permit that particular species of hunger—which is by no means peculiar to Scotsmen—to deaden their hearts to their native land, or to render them indifferent to their native speech, the merest word of which, when uttered unexpectedly under a foreign sky, stirs up all the latent patriotism in their minds, and opens their heart, and, if needs be, their purse, to the utterer. It has also, by a kind of Nemesis or poetical justice, established for itself a hold and footing, even in that English language which affects to ignore it; and, thanks more especially to Burns and Scott, and to the admiration which their genius has excited in England and America, has engrafted many of its loveliest shoots upon the old trees of the Anglo-Saxon and English language. Every year the number of words that are taken like seeds or grafts from the Scottish conservatory, and planted in the fruitful English garden, is on the increase, as will be seen from the following anthology of specimens, which might have been made ten times as abundant if it had been possible to squeeze into a wine-glass a whole gallon of hippocrene. Many of these words are recognised English, permissible both in literature and conversation; many others are in progress and process of adoption and assimilation; and many more that are not English, and may never become so, are fully worthy of a place in the dictionary of a language that has room for every word, let it come whence it will, that expresses a new meaning, or a more delicate shade of an old meaning than the existing forms of expression admit. *Eerie*, and *gloaming*, and *cannie*, and *cantie*, and *cozie*, and *lift*, and *lilt*, and *caller*, and *gruesome*, and *thud*, are all of an ancient and a goodly pedigree, and were, the most of them, as English in the fifteenth century as they ought to be in the nineteenth."

Since the days of *Piers Ploughman*, the spoken language of the English and Scottish peasantry has undergone but few changes as regards words, but very many changes as regards terminations and inflections. On the other hand, the language of literature and polite society has undergone changes so vast that uneducated people are scarcely able to understand the phraseology that occurs in the masterpieces of our great authors, or the Sunday sermons of their pastors, delivered, as the saying is, "above their heads," in words that are rarely or never employed in their every-day hearing. Among this class survive large numbers of verbs as well as of inflections that ought never to have been allowed to drop out of literature, and which it only needs the efforts of a few great writers and orators to restore to their original favour.

Among the losses which the English language has undergone are, firstly, the loss of the plurals in *n* and in *en*, and the substitution of the plural in *s*; secondly, the present participle in *and*, for which we have substituted the nasal and disagreeable *ing*; thirdly, the loss of the French negative *ne*, as in *will*, for "I will not;" *would*, for "I would not;" *'am*, for "I am not;" and of which the sole trace now remaining is "willy-nilly;" and, fourthly, the substitution of the preterite in *d*, as in *loved* and *admir'd*, for the older and much stronger preterite formed by a change in the vowel sound of the infinitive and the present, as in *run*, *ran*; *bite*, *bit*; *speak*, *spoke*; *take*, *took*; and many others that still survive. And not only has the language lost the strong preterite in a great variety of instances where it would have been infinitely better to have retained it, but it has lost many hundred preterites altogether, as well as many whole verbs, which the illiterate sometimes use, but which Literature for a hundred and fifty years has either ignored or despised. Of all the nouns that formerly formed their plural in *n*, as the German or Saxon nouns still for the most part do, very few survive—some in the Bible, some in poetical composition, some in the common conversation of the peasantry, and

some, but very few, in polite literature. Among them may be mentioned "oxen," for oxes; "kine," for cows; "shoon," for shoes; "hosen," for stockings; "een," for eyes; "housen," for houses; and the words, as common to the vernacular as to literature, "men," "women," "brethren," and "children." In America, the word "sistern," as a companion to brethren, survives in the conventicle and the meeting-house. "Lamben" and "thumben," for "lambs" and "thumbs," were comparatively euphemistic words; but thumbs and lambs, and every noun which ends with a consonant in the singular, are syllables which set music, and sometimes pronunciation, at defiance. What renders the matter worse is, that the *s* in the French plural, from which this perversion of the English language was adopted, is not sounded, and that the plural is really marked by the change of the definite article, as *le champ*, *les champs*. Thus in borrowing an unpronounced consonant from the French, in order to pronounce it we have adulterated our language with a multitude of sibilations alien to its spirit and original structure. The substitution of *s* for *eth* as the terminal of the present person singular of every verb in the language is an aggravation of the evil. If this change had been repudiated by our forefathers, a grace much needed would have been retained in the language.

Gradually, too, the English language has lost the large number of diminutives which it formerly possessed, and which, as already remarked, are still common in the Scottish dialect. The English diminutives in ordinary use in the nursery are many, but are chiefly employed in the pet names of children, as "Willie," for little William; "Annie," for little Anne; and so forth. The diminutives belonging to literature are abnormally few.

Among other losses, the plural in *en* of the present tenses of all the verbs is greatly to be lamented. We *loven* and we *smilen* would serve many rhythmical needs, and administer to many poetic elegancies that the modern forms do not supply.

"The persons plural," observes Ben Jonson in his *English*

*Grammar*—a work by no means so well known as his poetry—“keep the termination of the first person singular. In former times, till about the reign of King Henry VIII., they were wont to be formed by adding *en*; thus, ‘loven,’ ‘sayen,’ ‘complainen.’ But now (whatsoever is the cause) it hath quite grown out of use. Albeit (to tell you my opinion) I am persuaded that the lack thereof, well considered, will be found a great blemish to our tongue.”

But of all the losses which the language has sustained, not alone for poetry, but for oratory, that of many useful verbs, some of which are still existing in Scottish parlance, and of the ancient preterites and past participles of many old verbs, of which the infinitives and present tenses still hold their places, is the most to be deplored. This loss began early; and that the process is still in operation in the present day, is manifest from the fact that many preterites written in the best books and spoken in the best society forty years ago, are dropping out of use before our eyes. We constantly find *bid* for *bade*—“I *bid* him now;” “he *bid* me yesterday;” *dare* for *durst*—“I told him I *dare* not do it;” *need* for *needed*—“it was clear to me a year ago that he *need* not perform his promise;” *eat* for *ate* or *ett*—“he *eat* his dinner;” *bet* for *betted*—“he *bet* me a thousand to one.” The verbs *to let*, *to cast*, and *to put*, seem to have enjoyed no preterite during the last two hundred years in England, though in Scottish literature, both of the past and the present, their preterites are as common as their infinitives and present tenses. *Must*, in English, is equally devoid of the infinitive, the preterite, and the future; while *can* has a preterite, but neither infinitive nor future. For what reasons these and similar losses have occurred in English and in other modern languages might be interesting to inquire, though it might possibly lead us into metaphysical mazes were we to ask why an Englishman who may say “I can” and “I could,” must not say “I will *can*,” but must resort to the periphrase of “I will be



able," to express power in futurity ; or why the sense of present duty and obligation implied in the words "I must" cannot be expressed by the same verb if the duty be bygone or future, as I "*musted*," or "I will *must*," but have to be translated, as it were, into "I was obliged," or "I shall be obliged," to do such and such a thing hereafter. These, however, are losses or imperfections, whatever may be their occult causes, which can never again be supplied, and which it is useless to lament.

One of the most grievous of the losses which the language has suffered, is that of the preterites and past participles of ancient verbs that are still in use, and of many good English verbs in all their tenses which, without reason, have been left for vernacular use to the people of the north of England and Scotland, and have not been admitted to the honours of modern literature, except in the poems of Robert Burns, Miss Blamire, and the novels of Sir Walter Scott and John Galt. These preterites ought not to be lost—many of them are not dead, but sleeping—many only need the fostering care of a few writers and speakers of genius and influence to be revived—and most of them formed the bone and pith of the language of our forefathers, and make the beauty and strength of the Bible in many of its noblest passages.

What should we say if an English nobleman, of ancient and illustrious lineage and great wealth, had in the cellars and vaults of his castle, hundreds of coffers and oaken chests filled to the lid with coins of the purest gold, stamped with the image and superscription of bygone kings, if he would never use nor look at any portion of his wealth? What, also, should we say of him if, in want of gold for his daily needs, he persisted in borrowing it from strangers at usurious interest, rather than touch his antique treasures? We should say he was unwise, or at the least eccentric, and that it was questionable whether he deserved to possess the great wealth which he had inherited. Every master of the English tongue, whether he be poet, orator,

or great prose writer, is in the position of this supposed nobleman if he will not study the ancient words of the language, and revive to the extent of his ability such among them as he finds to be better adapted to express strong as well as delicate shades of meaning than the modern words which have usurped their places. To the poets more especially, and, if there be none left in our day (which we should be very sorry to assert), to the versifiers, who are not likely ever to fail us as long as there are hopes and fancies in the hearts of young men and women, this is a matter of special concern. The permissible rhymes of the modern English tongue are not very abundant; and such as exist, if not as well worn as love and dove, breeze and trees, heart and dart, are far too familiar to come upon the ear with any great charm of novelty. The dactylic rhymes are still fewer, as every one who has tried his hand at versification is painfully aware. It is the poet, more than the prose writer, who strengthens as well as beautifies the language which he employs. It is true that language first makes literature; but literature, when once established among a people, reacts upon language, and fixes its form—decides what words shall and what words shall not be used in the higher forms of prose and poetical composition. Old English—such as it is found in *Piers Ploughman* and his successors as far downwards as the poets and dramatists of the Elizabethan era, and as late as Milton and Dryden—is a passionate rather than an argumentative language; and poets, who ought to be passionate above all else, otherwise they are but mere versifiers, should go back to those ancient sources if they would be strong without ceasing to be correct and elegant. The words that were good enough for Shakespeare and his contemporaries ought to be good enough for the greatest writers of our day. But Shakespeare himself, as already observed, is to a very considerable extent becoming obsolete.

The intercourse between Great Britain and the United States of America has of late years so greatly increased, and the

interchange of thought between readers and writers on both sides of the Atlantic has become so intimate and incessant, as to have produced a marked effect, not only on the familiar language of Englishmen, but on English literature and, more especially, that of the newspaper press. Ever since the colonization of the first thirteen colonies, which proclaimed their independence nearly a century ago, the United States have received vast accessions of immigrants from the British Isles, who carried along with them to the new country of their adoption, not only the literary language of books, but the language of the peasantry—of what are called the common people; of people who used the rough and rustic speech of the counties—as distinguished from the more cultivated and more copious speech of London and of books—and who introduced into the current phraseology of every-day life many hundreds of words that literary men would consider obsolete, archaic, or provincial, and, therefore, to be avoided; but which were quickly adopted by the less fastidious writers for the American press, who cared less for fine writing than for making a strong impression on the minds of those whom they addressed. By dint of repetition in print, these old English—and all but forgotten—words have become part of the ordinary speech of the Americans, and are fast making their way back again to the land of their birth, stamped with the acceptance and approbation of a country that no longer aims in its literature to be a copyist. These Americanisms, as they are erroneously called, are making themselves at home in the old country, and adding to the wealth of that great and expansive language which promises to be the one all-pervading language of the civilized world—or, at least, to share that honour with the Spanish and the German, and to predominate largely over both.

Lest it may be objected that all the archaic words—reviving and revivable—that are introduced into the following pages, are not “beauties” in the strictest sense of the word, it may be

claimed that if not beauties, they are utilities—or may be made so—and that everything which is useful is beautiful in its degree. Every country has its literary and its popular language ; but if ever there were a language in the world, from which literature might advantageously borrow from the language of the people—of the past ages and of the present—it is the English.

Let us conclude with the observations of Frederick Schlegel, in his lectures on the *History of Literature* :—

“The care of the national language is at all times a sacred trust and a most important privilege of the higher orders of society. Every man of education should make it the object of his unceasing concern, to preserve his language pure and entire, to speak it, so far as is in his power, in all its beauty and perfection. . . . A nation whose language becomes rude and barbarous, must be on the brink of barbarism in regard to everything else. A nation which allows her language to go to ruin, is parting with the last half of her intellectual independence, and testifies her willingness to cease to exist.”

[The author has to return thanks to Messrs. Blackwood and Sons, of Edinburgh, for permission to reprint the substance of the above introduction and many “Lost Preterites,” which originally appeared in *Blackwood's Magazine*, in a paper with that title.]

# LOST BEAUTIES

OF THE

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

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**Abear**, to tolerate, or endure. This word survives among uneducated people, and is a better form of expression than its modern synonyme 'bear.' It is more correct to say of a man, that you cannot *abear* him, than to say you cannot bear him, for bear may mean to 'carry.' Abear is found in Chaucer, Spenser, and Shakespeare.

**Acold**, very cold.

The owl, with all his feathers, was *acold*.—*Keats*.

Poor Tom's *acold*.—*Shakespeare*.

**Adle**, stagnant water that smells badly. From the same root, 'addled,' a rotten egg.

**Afeared**, struck with fear—a more purely English word than its synonyme afraid, which is a corruption of the French *effrayé*, frightened.

A soldier, and *afeared*?—*Shakespeare*.

**Aforetime**, of old time ; in the days of old ; 'auld lang syne.'

**Aftermath**, the pasture after the grass has been mowed or mown ; a second mowing or crop.

**Aftertale**, a postscript sometimes added when the tale or story is, or ought to be, ended.

**Afterword**, a postscript to a letter ; or appendix to a book.

**Agasp**, gasping for breath.

**Agg**, to irritate : whence, by corruption, to 'egg on,' to excite.

**Agore**, gory, bloody.

**Aidle**, to earn one's bread indifferently well. 'I *aidle* my keep.'

**Airt**, the quarter from which the wind blows, from the Gaelic *ard*, a height.

Helter skelter from a' *airts*,  
In swarms the country drives.—*Stagg's Cumberland Ballads*.

Of a' the *airts* the wind can blaw,  
I dearly lo'e the west,  
For there the bonnie lassie lives,  
The lass that I lo'e best.—*Burns*.

But yon green graff (grave) now huskie green  
Wad *airt* me to my treasure.—*Burns*.

**Alder**, } the genitive of all ; a prefix formerly used to  
**Aller**, } intensify the meaning of an adjective in the superlative degree,—as if to better the best, and heighten the highest : in which sense it is still employed in modern German, and all the Teutonic languages. In Wicliffe's Bible, the Almighty is called the Alder-Father, and the Alder-Creator. Pope, in his Universal Prayer, says, 'Father of all,'—a phrase much less forcible than the one word of our ancestors.

**Alderbest**, best of all.

That all the best archers of the north  
Sholde come upon a day,  
And they that shoteth *alderbest*  
The game shal bere away.—*Ballad of Robin Hood*.

**Alderelde**, extreme old age.

**Alderfirst**, first of all.

Then Tonda forthwith *alderfirst*  
On the Christen smote wel fast.—*Guy of Warwick*.  
Placebo came and eke his frendes sone,  
And *alderfirst*, he bade them all a bone.

*Chaucer: The Merchant's Tale.*

**Alderforemost**, the foremost of all.

William and the Emperor went *alderforemost*.—*William and the Werewolf*.  
For though they make semblant fairest,  
They will beguile you *alderforemost*.—*The Seven Wise Masters*.

**Alderhighest**, highest of all.

And *alderhighest* took Astronomie.—*Lydgate*.

**Alderlast**, last of all.

And *alderlast* how he in this citie  
Was by the sonne slaine at Tholouse.—*Bochas*.

**Alderlest**, least of all.

Love,—against the whiche who so dependith,  
Himselfen most, him *alderlest* availeth.—*Chaucer: Troilus and Creseide*.

**Alderliefest**, dearest of all; best beloved of all.

Mine *alderliefest* Lorde and brother dear.—*Chaucer: Troilus and Creseide*.  
With you mine *alderliefest* sovereign.—*Shakespeare: King Henry VI*.

**Aldermost**, greatest, or most of all.

But *aldermost* in honour out of soule,  
They had a relicke highte Palladion.—*Chaucer: Troilus and Creseide*.

**Aldertruest**, truest of all.

I humbly do request  
That by your means our princes may unite  
Their love unto mine *aldertruest* love.—*Greene's Works*.

**Alderwisest**, wisest of all.

And truliche it sitte well to be so,  
For *alderwisest* have therewith been pleased.  
*Chaucer: Troilus and Creseide*.

**Alderworst**, worst of all.

Ye don us *alderworst* to spede  
When that we have most nede.—*Guy of Warwick*.

**Allwholly**, entirely.

**Amiddleward**, in the midst of.

The lady took and smote with main,  
Right *amiddleward* the brain.  
*Metrical Romance of the Seven Wise Masters*.

**Amort**, dejected, depressed, dis-spirited; at death's door.

How fares my Kate? What, sweeting! all *amort*?  
*The Taming of the Shrew*.

**Anan**, an interrogative, applied by an inferior to a superior, to express that he has not caught the meaning of something said to him. It saves a long periphrasis, such as, '*I beg your pardon, I did not hear what you said.*'

**Anent**, } relating to, concerning. The first of these forms  
**Anempst**, } is retained in Scotland, the north of England, and America; the second, which was more commonly used in the south and west of England, has become obsolete.

**Anent**—*continued*.

We will speak *anent* this matter.

And we humbly beseech your Highness we may knowe your Grace's pleasure, how we shall order ourselves *anempest* your Grace's sayd citie and castell.—*State Papers, Vol. II., quoted by Halliwell.*

The anxiety *anent* them was intense.

*T. A. Trollope: The Dream Numbers.*

**Anywhen**, at any time. This word is in common use among the peasants in the south of England; but has not yet been admitted to the honours of the Dictionary. It seems quite as well entitled to a literary position as anyhow, anywhere, anywhither, or anywise.

<b>Arl,</b>	{	in Scotland, and the north of England, the arl, or erl-penny, is a deposit paid down in confirmation of a bargain; an earnest of whatever kind; a pledge of full possession.
<b>Arles,</b>		
<b>Erl,</b>		
<b>Earles,</b>		
<b>Yearles,</b>		

Here tak' this gowd and never want,  
Enough to gar you drink and rant,  
And this is but an *arle* penny  
To what I afterwards design ye.—*Allan Ramsay.*

This was but *erlys* for to tell  
Of infortune that after fell.—*Wyntown.*

"This word," says Jamieson, "is evidently from the Latin *arrhabo*, which the Romans abbreviated into *arrha*. It denoted an earnest—a pledge in general. It was very often given to signify the earnest which a man gave to the woman he espoused, for the confirmation of the pledge between them."

The French have the word *arrhes*,—also signifying a deposit of money on a bargain.

**Arval**, probably a corruption of *earthal*; or putting to earth. A funeral.

**Arval-supper**, a supper given after a funeral.

<b>Arval-cake,</b>	{	funeral-baked meats.
<b>Arval-bread,</b>		

**Asper**, (French, *âpre*,) rough.

**Asperly**, roughly.

**Athattens**, in that manner.



**Athissens**, in this manner.

**Auld Lang Syne**. This phrase, so peculiarly tender and beautiful, and so wholly Scotch, has no exact synonyme in any language, and is untranslatable except by a weak and lengthy periphrasis. The most recent English dictionaries, those of Worcester and Webster, have adopted it; and the expression is almost as common in England as in Scotland. Allan Ramsay included in 'The Tea-Table Miscellany' a song entitled 'Old Long Syne,' a very poor production; but it remained for Robert Burns to make 'Auld Lang Syne' immortal, and fix it for ever in the English language.

**Averoyne**, the herb Southernwood.

**Awmrie**, a chest, a cabinet, a secretaire; from the French *armoire*:—

Steek (close) the *awmrie*, lock the kist,  
Or else some gear will soon be missed.

*Sir Walter Scott: Donald Caird.*

**Axe**, to inquire. This was the original and is the legitimate form of the verb now written and pronounced *ask*, and is not only to be heard in colloquial use all over England, but to be found in our earliest writers, with the inflexions *axed* and *axen*:—

Envy with heavy harte  
*Axed* after Thrifte.—*Vision of Piers Ploughman.*

If he *axe* a fish.—*Wicliffe's Bible.*

*Axe* not why.—*Chaucer: The Miller's Tale.*

For the purposes of lyrical poetry and musical composition, the past participle of this verb, if reintroduced into literature, would be a vast improvement upon the harsh sound *asked*, which no vocalist can pronounce without a painful gasp.

**Backstand**, resistance.

**Backword**, a contradiction, or answer, to put off an engagement.

**Bake**, } to bake. Both the preterite and the past participle of  
**Boke**, } the verb are lost to literature, though they survive in  
**Boken**, } the rural dialects of Scotland and the north of England.

**Bale**, sorrow, hurt, damage, mischief, misery; whence *baleful*, mischievous, and *balefulness*.

**Bale**—*continued*.

Now full of blisse and now of *bale*.—*Gower: Confessio Amantis.*

Amid my *bale*, I bathe in blisse,  
I sing in heaven, I sink in hell.—*Gascoigne: Strange Passion.*

But make you ready your stiff bats and clubs,  
Rome and her rats are at the point of battle;  
The one side must have *bale*.—*Shakespeare: Coriolanus.*

**Bangle**, to waste by little and little, to dissipate an estate by thoughtlessness and bad management.

We *bangle* away our days—befool our time.  
*Burton's Anatomy of Melancholy.*

He *bangled* all his father's money,  
a Lancashire phrase, applied to a man who has allowed his inheritance to slip out of his hands.

**Bangled**, beaten down by the wind, like corn or long grass.  
'A *bangle*-eared dog,' signifies a dog like a spaniel, with hanging ears.

**Barm**, yeast. Derived apparently from beer-ream (Germ. Bierrahm), the cream, or fermentation of beer. Dryden speaks of,—

Windy cyder and *barmy* beer,  
and in the 'Cherry and the Sloe,' of Captain Alexander Montgomery, 1590, we find,—

Hope puts that taste into your heads,  
That boils your *barmy* brain.

In the 'Midsummer Night's Dream,' the fairy says to Puck,—

Are you not he  
That frights the maidens of the villages,

\* \* \* \* \*

And sometimes makes the drink to bear no *barm*?

Burns, in his 'Epistle to James Smith,' uses the word in the sense given to it in the 'Cherry and the Sloe,'

Just now I've ta'en the fit o' rhyme,  
My *barmy* noddle's workin' prime.

**Barn**, } a true English word; too long consigned, in modern  
**Bairn**, } times, to the use of the Scottish writers. It is common to all the northern and eastern shires of England and Scotland, and is used in Sussex, Hampshire, and Dorset. Shakespeare, in the 'Winter's Tale,' has,—

**Barn**—*continued.*

Mercy on us, a *barne*! a very pretty *barne*!

He also quibbles upon bairns and barns, in 'Much Ado about Nothing,' where Beatrice says,—

Yea, Light-o'-love into your heels:

Then, if your husband have stables enough,

You'll see he shall lack no *barns*.

In the 'Pious Ploughman' the Saviour is called,

That blessed *Barne* that boughte us on the rode.

**Barrel fever**, the headache caused by intemperance in ale or beer.

**Barth**, a shelter for cattle.

**Bat**, the preterite of *beat*.

**Bate**, contention, strife; whence make-bate, and breed-bate—a barrator, or breeder and stirrer up of strife.

**Bateful**, quarrelsome, contentious.

**Batten**. All the dictionaries define this word as meaning 'to fatten, or grow fat.' Mr. Halliwell explains it, 'to thrive, or grow fat;' and adds that, 'to *batten* in dung, is to lie upon it and beat it close together.' In Sternberg's 'Folk Lore and Glossary of Northamptonshire,' the local phrase is quoted, 'Them pigs *batten* in the sun.' The word, as used by Shakespeare and Milton, does not seem susceptible of the common interpretation. It rather seems to signify, to feed insufficiently—applied to animals only, or to men and women derisively. Thus Shakespeare, to whom we owe the literary preservation of the word, makes Hamlet say to his mother, when upbraiding her with her new marriage, and showing her the pictures of her first and second husbands,—

Have you eyes;

Could you on this fair mountain leave to feed,

And *batten* on this moor?

i.e., she fed well on the rich pastures of the mountain, but starved—fed insufficiently, or *battened*—upon the bare herbage of the moorland. In another passage, Shakespeare says,—

Go and *batten* on cold bits;

in which the use of the word is more consistent with the idea of insufficiency than with that of repletion.

**Batten**—*continued*.

Milton has the line, '*Battening* our flocks with the fresh dews of night,'—a diet which, without fresh grass, as well as dew, would not add much to their plumpness.

A north-country toast at christening-feasts is,—

The wife a good church-going, and a *battening* to the bairn.  
*Brockett's Glossary of North-Country Words.*

One with another they would lie and play,  
And in the deep fog *batten* all the day.—*Dryden*.

**Bauch**, indifferent ; insipid.

Beauty but bounty's but *bauch*.—*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs*,—  
i.e., beauty without goodness is not worth much.

In Cheshire, a pudding made with milk and flour only, without any sweetening or condiment, is called a *baugh*.

**Bavin**, } a loose faggot of brushwood, bound with one withe.  
**Baven**, } A faggot, says Mr. Halliwell, is bound with two.

Shallow jesters and rash *bavin* wits,  
Soon kindled ; and soon burned.—*Shakespeare : Henry IV.*

**Be**, as an augmentative of verbs, is more extensively employed by the uneducated than by the educated classes. Bewildered is stronger than 'wilderred ;' or, 'I am *beteazed*' by the children from morning till night,' than 'teazed.' 'I am sore *besmitten* with ailments,' said a farm-labourer in Kent ; a more vigorous and poetical phrase than if he had said, 'I am greatly afflicted with diseases.'

The tears berain my cheeks.—*The Earl of Surrey. Temp. Henry VIII.*

**Beasel**, }  
**Basel**, } that part of a ring in which the jewel is set.

**Beat**, } 'The preterite of this verb,' says Walker, in his 'Pro-  
**Beaten**, } nouncing Dictionary,' 'is uniformly pronounced by the English like the present tense.' 'I think,' says Dr. Johnson to Horne Tooke, in one of the 'Imaginary Conversations' of Savage Landor, 'that I have somewhere seen the preterite *bate*.' 'I am afraid,' replied Tooke, 'of reminding you where you probably met with the word. The Irishman in Fielding's "Tom Jones" says "he *bate* me."' Johnson replied, 'that he would not hesitate to employ the word in grave composition ;' and Took acquiesced in the decision, justifying it by a statement of the fact, which, however, he did not

**Beat**—*continued*.

prove, 'that authors much richer both in thought and expression than any now living or recently deceased have done so.' Children, who often make preterites of their own, in this respect acting unconsciously upon the analogies of the language, often say *bett* for *did beat*. And the children, it would appear, are correct, if the following from 'Piers Ploughman' be considered good English :—

He laid on me with rage  
And hitte me under the ear ;  
He buffeted me so about the mouthe'  
That out my teeth he *bette*.

In Ross's 'Helenore'—a perfect storehouse of Anglo-Saxon words current in Aberdeenshire, Kincardineshire, the Mearns, and the north-east of Scotland—we find,—

Baith their hearts *bett* wi' the common stound,  
And had nae pain, but pleasure in the wound.

This preterite might well be revived ; it is sadly wanted, as witness the following passage from Mr. Disraeli's 'Vivian Grey' : 'Never was she so animated ; never had she boasted that her pulse *beat* more melodious music, or her lively blood danced a more healthy measure.' If 'danced' (a preterite), why not *bett*, as 'Piers Ploughman' has it ? The following is an example of the erroneous use of an imperfect preterite for the past participle *beaten*.

They were stoned, and the horse in their vehicle *beat* severely.  
*Temple Bar Magazine*, March, 1869.

**Beck**, a brook ; used in Sussex, in Cumberland, and in Lincolnshire ; and common throughout Holland and Belgium as a termination to the names of villages through which flow small streams,—as Scarbeck, Etterbeck, &c., derived from the German *Bach*—a brook.

The brooks, the *becks*, the rills, the rivulets.—Drayton's *Polyolbion*.

The tongue, the paunch, the neck,  
When they be well washed with water of the *beck*.  
*Booke of Hunting*, 1586.

Little John Jiggy Jog  
Went to Wigan to woo  
He came to a *beck*  
And broke his neck ;  
Johnny how dost thou now ?—*Nursery Rhymes of England*.

**Bedgang**, accouchement, lying in ; a purely English word, for which there needs no French synonyme.

**Bedswerver**, adulterer.—*Shakespeare*.

**Bed-thrall**,  
**Bedral**,  
**Bedrel**, } a bedridden person ; one confined to bed by sickness.

His father—who as *Bedrel* lay  
 Before his gate—of his life in despair.—*Douglas : Translation of Virgil*.

**Beet**, } to help, mend, assist the gradual waste of anything ;  
**Bete**, } and more especially to add fuel to the fire.

I will do sacrifice, and fires *bete*.—*Chaucer : The Knight's Tale*.

A corowne of a grene oak cerial  
 Upon his head was set full faire and mete ;  
 Two fires on the altar 'gan he *bete*.—*Idem*.  
 Whereby the day was dawning well I knew ;  
 Bad *bete* the fire and the candell alicht.

*Gawin Douglas : Translation of Virgil*.

Picking up peats to *beet* his ingle.

*Allan Ramsay : Epistle to Robert Yarde of Devonshire*.

'Bete my bale ;' i.e., feed or aliment my sorrow. In Kent, according to Mr. Halliwell, a *beeter* constantly attends the malt-kilns to *beet* the fire,—i.e., to put fresh straw into the mouth of the kiln.

**Belive**, immediately ; by-and-by.

If Triamour be alive,  
 Hither will he come *belive*.

God send us grace to speed.—*Metrical Romance of Sir Triamour*.

For God's sake, love, hie we *belive*,  
 And look whether Ogier be alive.—*Metrical Romance of Sir Otuel*.

Ours went again *belive*,  
 Into the city of Carohaise.—*Metrical Romance of Merlin, Part II*.

*Belive* the elder bairns come dropping in.

*Burns : Cotter's Saturday Night*.

**Bellbloom**, the hedge convolvulus. In some parts of England this name is given to the daffodil.

**Bellen**, to swell out ; a word preferable to the more modern "belly ;" as the *bellying*, or bulging sail of a ship in a fair wind.

**Bell-penny**, money laid up by any one to pay the expenses of his own funeral ; or the ringing of the bell for the same.

**Bend**, a drink ; a metaphorical expression for the bending of the arm, in lifting the glass or goblet to the mouth.

Come gie's the other *bend*,  
We'll drink their health, however it may end.—*Allan Ramsay*.

**Bender**, a hard drinker.

Now lend your lungs, ye *benders* fine,  
Wha ken the benefit of wine.—*Allan Ramsay*.

In America, 'to go on the bender,' is a common expression,—to go on the *spre*, or on a drinking bout

**Bendsome**, pliable, yielding.

**Benison**, a blessing ; a benediction.

And when his leave of me he took,  
The tears they wat mine e'e ;  
I gied him sic a parting look,—  
My *benison* gang wi' thee.—*Ballad of Gilderoy*.

**Benothinged**, annihilated.

**Bent**, a species of coarse long grass.

**Benty**, overgrown with long coarse grass.

Lay the *bent* to the bonny broom.—*Old English Song*.

**Besmirsch**, besmear.

**Betide**, } from tide, to happen. The preterite is lost. It  
**Betid**, } occurs both in 'Piers Ploughman' and in Chaucer :

Ther should never have *tidde* so fair a grace.—*Canterbury Tales*.

**Betterness**, something better than goodness ; a meaning not to be expressed by the imperfect synonyme, 'amelioration.'

**Bevel**, out of the level ; crooked.

I may be straight, though they themselves be *bevel*.  
*Shakespeare's Sonnets*.

**Bever**, a drink between meals.

Thirty meals a day, and ten *bevers*, a small trifle to suffice nature.  
*Marlowe: Dr. Faustus*.

**Bicker**, a drinking cup, a beaker, a step in the wrong direction :—

Fill high the foaming *bicker* !  
Body and soul are mine, quoth he,  
I'll have them both for liquor.—*The Gin Fiend*.  
Setting my staff wi' a' my skill  
To keep me sicker.  
Though leeward, whyles, against my will,  
I took a *bicker*.—*Burns: Death and Dr. Hornbook*.

**Bid**, and its derivative **forbid**. The ancient preterite and past participle of this verb were *bade* and *bidden*, *forbade* and *forbidden*. Both of these inflections are threatened with extinction; for what offence it is impossible to surmise. Shakespeare says,—

The very moment that he *bade* me do it.

That our modern writers do not follow the example of Shakespeare, and conform to the rules of good English, may appear from the following examples:—

The competition is so sharp and general that the leader of to-day can never be sure that he will not be *outbid* to-morrow.

*Quarterly Review*, April, 1868.

Mr. Charles Dickens has finally *bid* farewell to Philadelphia.

*Times*, March 4, 1868.

Uncertain even at that epoch (1864) of Austria's fidelity, Prussia *bid* high for German leadership.—*Times*, April 9, 1868.

He called his servants and *bid* them procure firearms.

*Times*, letter from Dublin, March 2, 1868.

James the First, besides writing a book against tobacco, *forbid* its use by severe penalties.—*Tobacco*, by D. King, M.D.

**Bide**, abide, remain, dwell.

For some days she did with him *bide*.

*Ballad of John Thomson and the Turk*.

'Bide a wee,' *i.e.*, hold on awhile; remain a little while.

**Bield**, a shelter. This word occurs in the *Morte Arthur*, and is pure English, though long since consigned to the exclusive use of Scottish writers.

Then peeping, half sleeping,

Frae forth my rural *bield*,

It easit me and pleasit me,

To see and smell the field.—*Allan Ramsay: The Vision*.

Better a wee bush than nae *bield*.

(Adopted by Robert Burns as his motto.)

There's *bield* beneath an auld man's beard.

As the wind blows seek your *bield*.

Every man bows to the tree he gets *bield* from.

*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs*.

The flaunting flowers our garden *yield*,

High sheltering woods and wa's maun *shield*,

But thou beneath the random *bield* (of clod or stone),

Adorns the histie (dry) stubble field.—*Burns: To a Daisy*.



**Bike,** } a crowd.  
**Byke,** } a nest of wild bees, or wasps.

A *byke* of waspes bred in his nose.—*MS. Cott. Calig.* (quoted by Halliwell).

As bees bizz out wi' angry fyke (*fret*),  
 When plundering herds assail their *byke*.—*Burns: Tam o' Shanter.*

I am a bard of no regard,  
 Wi' gentle folk and a' that,  
 But Homer-like the glowrin' *byke*,  
 Frae town to town, I draw that.—*Burns: The Jolly Beggars.*

**Bilk**, to defraud; cheat; run away without payment. This word has in modern days degenerated into slang: having in its proper use been, unnecessarily, superseded by *balk*. Dryden uses the one form, and Pope the other, to express the same meaning.

What comedy, what farce, can more delight  
 Than grinning hunger, and the pleasing sight  
 Of your *bilk'd* hopes?—*Dryden.*

An unknown country girl was delivered of him under a tree; where she *bilked* him: he was found by a sexton-priest of the church.

*Spenser: Secret History of the House of Medici, 1689.*

Is there a variance? enter but his door,  
*Balked* are the courts; and contest is no more.—*Pope.*  
*Balked* of his prey, the yelling monster cries.—*Pope.*

*Bilk* seems worthy of restoration to the honourable place given it by Dryden and Spenser in the foregoing extracts, because it expresses an idea of which *balk* is not the equivalent. To *balk* a wild animal of its prey, a thief of his plunder, or the courts of justice of a suit, is a rightful act, and the word suggests no wrong or injustice. But to *bilk*, is to defraud another of that which is his due—as a mother who *bilks* her helpless child of the protection she owes it; or as a passenger, who *bilks* a coach-driver or cabman, by running off without payment of his debt.

**Bir**, force, manliness,—from the Latin *vir*. Used in Scotland, and on the English border; and stated in Grose's 'Provincial Glossary,' to be current in Cheshire.

**Bird**, or **burd**, a term of endearment applied to a young lady:—

And by my word, the bonnie *bird*  
 In danger shall not tarry.—*Thomas Campbell.*

**Birkie**, a conceited person :—

Ye see yon *birkie* ca'd a lord,  
Wha struts and stares, and a' that.—*Burns: A Man's a Man.*

**Birl**, } to pour out wine or liquor; whence *purl* as a  
**Byrl**, } stream.

Oh, she has *birled* these mery yong men  
With the ale but and the wine,  
Until they were as deadly drunk,  
As any wild wood swine.

*Scott's Border Minstrelsy: Ballad of Fause Foodrage.*

There were three lords *birling* at the wine,  
On the dowie dens o' Yarrow,  
They made a compact them between,  
They would go fecht to-morrow.

*Motherwell's Ancient Minstrelsy.*

On the playne grene was buylded a fountain; gylte with fine golde;  
engrayled with antique workes, the olde god of wine called Bacchus,  
*birling* the wine.—*Hall: Henry VIII.*

**Birl**, to turn round.

He keptit close the house and *birled* at the wheel.—*Hector Macneill.*

**Birler**, a butler, or pourer out of liquor.

In Cumberland, according to Mr. Halliwell, *birler* signifies a master of the revels at a wedding; one of his duties being to superintend the refreshments for the party. In some districts, 'birl' means a rattling noise; and the becks, or mountain streams, in Westmoreland and Cumberland, are said to come *birling* down.

**Birs**, the thick hair or *bristles* on the back of swine :—

The souter (shoemaker) gave the sow a kiss.  
'Humph!' quo' she, 'it's a' for my *birs*!'

*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

**Bladd**, a leaf; a blade; or a flat piece of anything.

**Blae**, of a pale blue colour; a sickly blue.

The morning *blae* and wan.—*Douglas: Translation of Virgil.*

Diseases, heaviness, and spleen,  
With visage dull and *blae*.—*Allan Ramsay: The Fair Assembly.*

Be in dread, oh, sirs! Some of you will stand with a *blae* countenance  
before the tribunal of God!—*Bruce's Soul's Confirmation.*

**Blare**, } to roar; to bellow.

**Blore**, } to cry out, as with the brassy sound of a trumpet. A  
blast of wind is called a *blore* in the northern counties and  
in Scotland.

The terrible trumpets *blare*—*Rassau Cornwall*

**Blashy**, thin, poor, weak, small ; applied to drink—as ‘ blashy beer—very small beer,’ or ‘ blashy tea.’

**Blate**, cold ; insipid ; bashful ; modest ; shy.

And Eve, without her loving mate,  
Had thought the garden wondrous *blate*.—*Collins's Miscellanies*, 1762.

Says Lord Mark Kerr, ‘ ye are na *blate*  
To bring us the news o’ your ain defeat—  
Get out o’ my sight this morning.’

*Jacobite Ballad: ‘Johnnie Cope.’*

A *blate* cat makes a proud mouse.—*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs*.

The youngster’s artless head o’erflows with joy,  
And *blate* and laithfu’ scarce can well behave.

*Burns: Cotter's Saturday Night.*

**Blaud**, to lay anything flat with violence, as the wind or a storm of rain does the corn :—

This day M’Kinlay takes the flail,  
And he’s the boy will *blaud* her.—*Burns: The Ordination.*

Ochon ! ochon ! cries Haughton,  
That ever I was born,  
To see the Buckie burn rin bluid,  
And *blauding* a’ the corn.—*Aberdeenshire Ballad.*

**Blaver**, the blue corn-flower, or the corn blue-bottle. In the Ballad of the ‘Gardener Lad,’ Vol. ii. of Buchan’s ‘Collection of Ancient Ballads and Songs of the North of Scotland,’ occurs the passage,—

Your gloves shall be o’ the green clover,  
Come lockerin’ to your hand  
Well dropped o’er wi’ blue *blavers*,  
That grow amang white land.

**Bleary**, confused ; cloudy ; misty.

Oh give me back my native hills,  
If bleak or *bleary*, grim or gray.—*Cumberland Ballad.*

**Blear-eyed**, with dull, cloudy eyes.

**Blee**, colour ; appearance ; complexion:

A cloth of silke, she wonde hin,  
That was of swithe (very) fair *ble*.—*Legend: Cathol.*  
The ladies that were fair and free,  
And one that brighter was of *blee*,  
Weeped sore and handes wrung.—*Morte Arthur.*

**Blee**,—*continued*.

And pale pale grew her rosy cheek,  
That was so bright of *blee*,  
And she seemed to be as surely dead  
As any one could be.—*The Gay Goss Hawk, Border Minstrelsy*.

**Blend**, } to mingle. The ancient preterite of this verb is very  
**Blent**, } properly preserved by the poets, but seems to have  
entirely given way in prose and in ordinary speech to 'blended.'  
Any reason for the change it is impossible to discover; for if it  
be correct to say 'blended,' it would be equally correct to say  
'spended,' 'lended,' or 'rended.' This form of the preterite  
in the verb 'to mend' has properly been superseded by  
'mended,' in order to avoid the confusion that would be  
caused in the use of the verb 'to mean,' which has its proper  
preterite in 'meant.' Byron uses *blent* with fine effect in his  
noble lines on 'The Battle of Waterloo':—

Rider and horse, friend, foe, in one red burial *blent*.

**Blether**, } to talk nonsense in a loud manner; to be full of  
**Blather**, } wind as a *bladder*.

This is a common word in Scotland, and on the English  
border; as well as in Yorkshire and Lincolnshire.

There's nothing gained by being witty: fame  
Gathers but wind to *blather* up a name.—*Beaumont and Fletcher*.

When Phœbus' head turns light as cork,  
And Neptune leans upon his fork,  
And limping Vulcan *blethers*.—*Allan Ramsay: The Vision*.

But I shall scribble down some *blether*,  
Just clear aff loof (off hand).—*Burns: Epistle to Lapraik*.

Then in we go to see the show,  
On every side they're gatherin',  
Some carrying deals, some chairs and stools,  
And some are busy *bletherin'*.—*Burns: The Holy Fair*.

All in this misty moisty clime,  
I backward mused on wasted time,  
How I had spent my youthful prime,  
And done nae thing,

But stringing *blethers* up in rhyme,  
For fools to sing.—*Burns: The Vision*.

'She's better to-night,' said one nurse to another. 'Night's come, but  
it's not gone,' replied her helpmate, in the full hearing of the patient,  
'and it's the small hours 'll try her.' 'The small hours 'll none try me as  
much as you do with your *blethering* tongues,' remarked the patient.

*A Visit to the London Hospitals, 'Pall Mall Gazette,' March 23, 1870.*

**Blin,** } to cease ; to stop.  
**Blan,** }

And so he did or that they went atwin,  
 Till he had turned him he could not *blin*.

*Chaucer: The Chanones' Yeman's Tale.*

Her tears did never *blin*.—*Nares: Romeus and Julietta.*

One while then the page he went

Another while he ranne,

Till he'd o'ertaken King Estmere,

I wis he never *blanne*.—*Percy's Reliques: King Estmere.*

**Bloach,** } to variegate.  
**Blotch,** } to spot.

The *bloached* holly.

**Blob,** } a drop of water or of dew ; from whence *blebster* and  
**Bleb,** } *blister*,—drops of water formed under the skin.

Sir Thomas More, in his 'Consolations of the Soul,' says  
 we look on 'this troubled passing stream of the generations  
 of men, to as little purpose almost as idle boys do on dancing  
*blebs* or bubbles in the water.'

*Blob*, the northern and Scottish form of the word.

She kisses the lips o' her bonnie red rose,

Wet wi' the *blobs* o' dew.

*Bonnie Lady Ann*, by Allan Cunningham, in *Cromwell's Remains of  
 Nithsdale and Galloway Song.*

Oh sweet upon the gowan-tap the dew *blobs* fa'.—*The Bridal Sark, ib.*

Her e'en the clearest *blob* o' dew outshining.—*Allan Ramsay.*

**Blonk,** }  
**Blonke,** } a large, powerful horse.

— his burlike (burly) *blonke*.—*Morte Arthur.*

**Blooth**, a blossom ; useful as rhyme to youth, truth, &c.

**Blote**, to dry in smoke ; whence the modern bloater, a Yar-  
 mouth bloater.

**Blurt**, to cry out suddenly, and without premeditation ;  
 whence, 'to blurt out a secret.'

**Bode**, a message.

Assembled ben his answer for to here,

And afterwards this knight was *bode* appere.

*Chaucer: The Wife of Bath's Tale.*

The owle that of death the *bode* bringeth.—*Chaucer.*

Ye may hae was (worse) *bodes* ere Beltan (May Day).

*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

**Bode**—*continued.*

Tell down your money, said Willie Wallace,  
 Tell down your money if it be good,  
 I'm sure I have it in my power,  
 And never had a better *bode*.

*William Wallace: Motherwell's Ancient Minstrelsy.*

**Bole**, the trunk of a tree.

View well this tree, the queen of all the grove,  
 How vast her *bole*.—*Dryden.*

**Bolt**, an arrow; from whence the phrases, *bolt*-upright, straight up as an arrow; and *bolt* on end, perpendicular. The word thunderbolt thus means the arrow, or weapon, that falls to the earth, after being discharged from the bow of the thunder-clouds. The vulgarism, to *bolt*—to run away—is derived from this root,—to go straight off, and out of sight—like an arrow.

Mincing she was, as is a jolly colt,  
 Long as a mast, and upright as a *bolt*.—*Chaucer: The Miller's Tale.*  
 'Wide!' quoth Bolton, when his *bolt* flew backward.

*Proverb quoted by Halliwell.*

Yet marked I where the *bolt* of Cupid fell.—*Shakespeare.*

'I have shot my *bolt*.'—*Letter from Mr. E. Horsman, M.P., to the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone:—Times, May 3rd, 1861.*

**Bolter**, } a round mass of conglomerate sand is called a *balter*  
**Balter**, } in Northamptonshire. The word is also used as a verb. In Bedfordshire, hasty-pudding is said to be *boltered*, when much of the flour remains in lumps.—*Sternberg's Northamptonshire Glossary.*

The word is used in Shakespeare, when Macbeth speaks of 'blood-*boltered* Banquo.'

In Webster's and Worcester's Dictionary, *bolter* is said to mean *besmear*, and in the latter this passage is quoted as signifying blood-*smeared* Banquo; but *clotted*, or covered with gory lumps, seems to be the real signification.

**Bonny**, } this word holds a place midway between *pretty* and  
**Bonnie**, } *beautiful*, signifying the possession of more loveliness and grace than the one, and of less dignity and majesty than the other. To say of one that she is a *bonnie* lass, is a higher compliment than to say that she is a *pretty* girl, for *bonnieness* implies health as well as loveliness. The word, though considered Scottish in consequence of its more fre-

**Bonny**—*continued.*

quent use by Ramsay, Burns, and the song writers and novelists of Scotland, than by those of England, is as English as Shakespeare and his contemporaries can make it.

And every little grass  
Broad itself spreadeth ;  
Proud that this *bonny* lass,  
Upon it treadeth.—*Drayton's Shepherd's Sirena.*

So blythe and *bonnie* now the lads and lassies are.  
*Drayton's Polyolbion.*

We say that Shore's wife hath a pretty foot,  
A cherry lip, a *bonny* eye, a passing-pleasing tongue.  
*Shakespeare: Richard III.*

As the *bonny* lass passed by,  
She roved at me with glancing eye.  
*Spenser: Shepherd's Calendar.*

Broom, broom, the *bonny* broom,  
Come buy my birchen broom ;  
In the wars we've no more room,  
Buy all my *bonny* broom.—*Beaumont and Fletcher.*

Bow to the sun, to our queen and the fair one,  
Come to behold our sports,  
Each *bonny* lass is here counted a rare one.—*John Ford, 1623.*  
The *bonny* broome, the well-favoured broome,  
The broome blows fair on hill.

*Poor Corydon: Ballad in the Pepys Collection.*

There was a lady in the North Country,  
Lay the bent to the *bonnie* broom,  
And she had lovely daughters three,  
Fa, la, la, la, la, lee.—*Durfy's Pills to purge Melancholy.*

Oh where is the boatman ? my *bonny* lass,  
Oh where is the boatman ? bring him to me ;  
To ferry me over the Tyne to my love,  
And I will remember the boatman and thee.

*Song: The Water of Tyne, Newcastle.*

Who's like my Johnny,  
So leish, so blithe, so *bonny*,  
He's foremost 'mong the mony,  
Lads o' coaly Tyne.—*Song: The Keel Row.*

With these examples to prove its English use, it may well be asked why so beautiful and much needed a word should be considered local, and left to the Scottish song writers.

**Boon**, a bonus, from 'bon,' good ; a day's work given gratuitously to help a man to build his house, or plough his field. *Boon* companions, drank together afterwards ; and hence the

**Boon**—*continued.*

modern meaning of the adjective, as signifying jovial and merry, as well as good. In Lincolnshire to *boon*, according to Halliwell, means to work at the reparation of the public roads.

**Bord,** } a joke, a jest, a trick. This word survives in Scottish  
**Bourd,** } poetry, and in the wit and philosophy of ancient proverbs, but has disappeared from English literature ; in which, from the days of Chaucer to those of Spenser and Shakespeare, it was a frequent ornament.

The early author of 'Lay Le Fraine,' commences his poem by observing that lays and songs to be accompanied by the harp, were composed on all sorts of subjects :—

Some of war and some of woe,  
 And some of joy and mirth also,  
 And some of treachery and guile,  
 Of old adventures that fell erewhile,  
 And some of *bourds* : &c.

\* \* \* \* \*

But most of love forsooth there be.

You should not in a strange land,  
 Mock, nor yet be *bourdened* ;  
 But if ye will with *bourdings* deck,  
 Right clearly then ye should them veil.

*Sir Eger, Sir Graham, and Sir Gray Steel.*

'Fool !' he said, 'thou *bourdest* grete,  
 With my spear I shall thee beat.'

*Metrical Romance : The Life of Ipomydon.*

With sugered words she woo'd and spared no speed,  
 But *bourded* him with many a pleasant tale.—*Turberville.*

They all agreed : so turning all to game  
 And pleasant *bord*, they past forth on their way.

*Spenser : Faerie Queene.*

The wizard could no longer bear her *bord*,  
 But bursting forth in laughter to her said.—*Idem.*

Gramercy Borril for the company,  
 For all thy jests and all thy merry *bourds*.—*Drayton's Pastorals.*

'I'll tell the *bourd*, but nae the body,' *i.e.*, the joke, but not the person it was made upon. 'A sooth *bourd* is nae *bourd*,' *i.e.*, 'a true jest is no jest.'

*Bourd* na with Bawtie (the watch dog) lest he bite you.

They that *bourd* with cats may count upon scarts (scratches).

*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*



**Bottle-thrall**, a confirmed drunkard, a slave to the bottle.

**Bouse**, to drink deeply, to revel ; whence the English word 'boozy' :—

There let him *bouse*, and deep carouse,  
Wi' bumpers flowing o'er,  
Till he forgets his loves and debts,  
And minds his grief no more.—*Burns*.  
As though bold Robin Hood  
Would with his maid Marian  
Sup and *bouse* from horn and can.—*Keats*.

**Bowboy**, a scarecrow.

**Bower**, a lady's chamber.

**Bowermaid**, a chambermaid.

**Brabble**, *v.* to quarrel.

**Brabble**,  
**Brabblement**, } *n.* a quarrel.

This pretty *brabble* will undo us all.—*Shakespeare: Titus Andronicus*.

**Brae**, the brow or side of a hill—from the Gaelic *bruaich* :—

We twa ha'e run about the *braes*  
And pu'd the gowans fine,  
But mony a weary foot we've trod  
Sin auld lang syne.—*Burns*.

**Brag**, the best, foremost, and most flourishing.

Young Charlie Cochran was the sprout of an aik,  
Bonnie, and blooming, and straight was its make ;  
The sun took delight to shine for its sake,  
And it will be the *brag* o' the forest yet.

*Lady Mary Ann : Border Ballad.*

**Braird**, the first sprouting of the corn.—*Scottish and Northern*.

**Brander**, a gridiron.

**Brant**,  
**Brent**, } steep, high, precipitous. Roger Ascham says :

The grapes grew on the *brant* rocks ;  
and Gawin Douglas in the translation of the 'Æneid' :  
His blythe brow is *brent*.

In the song of John Anderson my Jo, the good wife says  
to her husband :—

When we were first acquent,  
Your locks were like the raven,  
Your bonnie brow was *brent* ;

**Brant**—*continued.*

a high compliment both to his personal graces and his intellect.

The same phrase occurs in the Ballad of Lady Elspet, (Jamieson's Popular Ballads, vol. ii.)

How *brent's* your brow, my lady Elspet,  
How gouden yellow is your hair.

In Allan Ramsay's Pastoral on the death of the Countess of Wigton, he says :—

Her fair *brent* brow, smooth as the unwrinkled deep.

In Yorkshire there is a proverb that 'It is good to set a stout heart to a stiff *brant*.' The same proverb is current in Scotland, in phraseology, encumbered with fewer consonants. 'Set a stout heart to a stey brae.'

A *brant* hill—as *brant* as the ridge of a house.

*Ray's North Country Words.*

The excellent Prince, Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk, with bow-men of England, slew King James with many a noble Scot, even *brant* against Flodden Hill.—*Ascham's Toxophilus.*

The word *brunt*, in the sense of bearing the 'brunt' of battle, of strife, or of difficulty, has been derived by all the lexicographers, from Johnson to Worcester, from burned or burnt; and Archbishop Trench says that the *brunt* of the battle is the heat of the battle, where it burns the most fiercely; but *brent*, *brant*, and *brunt* are all forms of the same word, and in the sense of steep, difficult to surmount, hard of access, *brant* seems the more obvious and more natural derivation.

**Brangle**, *v.* to dispute, quarrel—either derived from the Anglo-Saxon be-wrangle, or the Gaelic *brionglaid*, bickering, wrangling, quarreling. In Lincolnshire, according to Mr. Halliwell, *brangled* means confused, intricate, tangled.

Here I conceive that flesh and blood will *brangle*,  
And murmuring Reason, with the Almighty wrangle.—*Du Bartas.*

**Branglesome**, quarrelsome.

**Brash**, clippings of hedges, or wind-scattered boughs and branches of trees.

**Brath**, fierce. Gaelic, *brath*, a conflagration.

**Brathly**, fiercely.

Bears to Sir Berill and *brathly* him hittes [hits him fiercely].

*Morte Arthur.*

**Brattle**, a confused noise or clatter of feet.

**Breme,**  
**Brim,**  
**Bryme,** } vigorous, lively, lusty, strong, sharp.

When *brim* blastis of the northern art,  
O'erwhelmit had Neptunus in his cart:

*Gawin Douglas: Translation of the Æneid.*

They are bold and *breme* as bare.—*MS. Harleian, quoted by Halliwell.*

The *breme* winter.—*Spenser.*

In Milton's line—

By dimpled brook and fountain *brim*,

*brim* is probably not the rim or edge of the fountain, as commonly supposed, but the adjective *brim*, lively, as distinguished from the gentler epithet of *dimpling*, applied to the brook. The brimming glasses may have originally meant glasses filled with lusty, vigorous, *brim* liquor; and if this supposition be correct, brimful, as now used, is a corruption of rim-full, full up to the rim or edge.

**Breezeblossom**, the wild anemone.

**Bren,**  
**Brend,**  
**Brent,**  
**Brand,** } to burn. This verb is lost, though it might well have been retained in the language. 'A *brand* plucked from the burning' is almost its sole remnant.

Bring in better wood,  
And blow it till it *brend*.—*Piers Ploughman.*

**Brest,**  
**Brast,** } to burst:—

Have thou my truth, till that mine herte *brest*.

*Chaucer: The Franklein's Tale.*

The mayor smote Cloudeslee with his bill  
His buckler he *brast* in two.

*Percy's Reliques: Adam Bell, Clym of the Clough,  
and William of Cloudeslee.*

**Brightsom**, shiny.

**Brinch**, to drink in answer to a pledge.—*Halliwell.*

**Brisk**, to make brisk,—such verbs as *freshen* and *gladden* are recognized English—but *brisk* has not yet recovered its lost place, and is partially, if not entirely, deprived by its less elegant synonyme to '*brisk up*.'

**Brust,** } the thick hair on a hog's spine ; the same as *birs*.  
**Birst,** }

Roland lough (laughed) and said,  
 No is worth the *brust* of a swine.—*Romance of Roland*

The bearded buck clamb up the brae,  
 With *birsty* bears and brocks (badgers).

*The Cherry and the Slae*, 1590.

**Bub**, any liquor that froths or bubbles. The Ballad of the 'Brewer,' in D'Urfey's 'Pills to Purge Melancholy,' ends by calling upon the guests to leave off singing and drink off their *bub*.

Matthew Prior says of one of his heroes :—

He loves cheap port and double *bub*,

or what, in the present day, would be called 'double X.'

In one of the satirical effusions in the 'Convivial Songster,' London, 1782, a priest is described as one who would 'cant out any nonsense, to please the illiterate crowd,' if he could thereby get

Good victuals and *bub*.

In the same collection occurs the following description of the emotions excited in the breast of a country lass, by the arrival of a regiment of soldiers in a dull country town :—

Dear mother, I'm quite transported,  
 To think of the boon comrades ;  
 They say we shall all be courted,  
 Wives, widows, and buxom maids.  
 Oh, this will be joyful news, girls,  
 We'll dress up our houses with holly,  
 We'll broach a tub of humming *bub*,  
 To treat those who come with a rub-a-dub-dub,  
 Dear mother ! they'll make us jolly !

'My *grub* and *bub*,' is a phrase often employed by the peasantry, and an ale-*bubber* is as common an expression as a wine-bibber.

One of the finest passages in which the word occurs is in Spenser—

Rude Acheron a loathsome lake, to tell,  
 That boils and *bubs* with swelth as black as hell.

**Buck**, the breast ; whence, 'buck,' a dandy, or one that walks proudly, with his breast stuck out. Perhaps *buxom*, portly and comely, as applied to a woman, is from the same root.

**Bummel**, an idle fellow, a drone.

**Burdalane,** } the last child surviving in a family ; the lonely  
**Burdalone,** } bird.

And Newton Gordon, *birdalone*,  
 And Dalgatie both stout and keen,  
 And gallant Veitch upon the field,  
 A braver face was never seen.

*Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border.*

**Burdy-bud,** }  
**Buddy-bud,** } the flower of the burr-thistle, or burdock.

**Burly,** }  
**Buirdly,** } strong, portly.

*Buirdly* chieils.—*Burns*.

**Burn**, brook, or small stream. This word was once common in English poetry as *bourne*; and survives in the names of such streams and places as Ravensbourne, Holborn, Kilburn, Sittingbourne, Blackburn, &c. A song quoted in 'King Lear' has

Come o'er the *bourn*, Bessy, to me.

In Drayton's 'Polyolbion' occurs :

The *bourns*, the brooks, the becks, the rills, the rivulets.

In the 'Faerie Queene' :

My little boat can safely pass this perilous *bourne* ;  
 and in Browne's 'Pastorals' :

The muttering *bourns* and pretty rills.

In Stow's 'Annals,' under the reign of Henry III. A.D. 1217, he says that 'divers *bournes* suddenly brake out of the hollow places of the earth, and overflowed a great part of the city of Canterbury.'

*Bourne* also signifies a boundary :

The undiscovered regions, from whose *bourne*,  
 No traveller returns.

It has been supposed, with reason, that the word in this passage was derived from the fact, that in early ages, as is often the case now, streams were the obvious boundary lines of landed property.

In the forms of *burn* and *burnie*—familiar to all the readers of Scottish poetry and romance—the word has of late years been making its way into English composition, to which it strictly and rightfully belongs. In his Epistle to William Simpson, of Ochiltree, Burns (happily omened name for such

**Burn**—*continued.*

a subject) complains of the neglect by poets of the streams and *burnies* of his native country ; and prophesies the fame that he will give them by his verse :—

The 'Ilyssus, Tiber, Thames, and Seine  
Glide sweet in many a tuneful line,  
But Willie, set your foot to mine,  
And cock your crest ;  
We'll gar our streams and *burnies* shine,  
Up wi' the best.

The prediction has been verified ; and the banks of every stream which he has celebrated have become classic ground, to the fancy and memory of the English-speaking race in two hemispheres.

**Busk**, to adorn, to dress :—

A bonny bride is soon *buskit*.—*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

*Busk ye, busk ye*, my bonnie, bonnie bride,

*Busk ye, busk ye*, my winsome marrow.—*Hamilton of Bangour.*

Its constant use in Scottish romantic and legendary poetry, has rendered the word familiar to all readers of taste. It well deserves to be reinstated in the place in English literature to which it formerly belonged. In a MS. in the Harleian library, quoted by Halliwell, we find :—

Bade them *busk* and make them yare,  
All that stiffe were on steed.

Nares, who says the word is Scotch, 'quotes Fairfax's 'Translation of Tasso,' and thus proves it to be English also :

The noble Barn with his courage hot,  
And *busked* him boldly to the dreadful fight.

In the 'Romance of Guy of Warwick,' the word occurs :

The Danishmen *busked* them yare  
Into the battle forth to fare.

It is found also in 'Sir Triamour' :

When Triamour was whole and sound,  
And well healed of his wound,  
He *busked* him forth to fare.

But, } out of doors and indoors ; the front and back rooms of  
and } a cottage. These words, abbreviations of 'be out,' and  
**Ben**, } 'be in,' belong to a once numerous class, of which the  
poetical phrases, *doff*, or 'do off,' and *don*, or 'do on,' and  
*dout*, or 'do out,' are the best known remnants. They have  
the merit of greater comprehensiveness and beauty than their  
paraphrastic synonymes.

**Caller**, fresh, cool. The word *fresh* seems to have been derived in all of its various forms in Anglo-Saxon, German, and French, from the Latin *frigidus*, cold. The beautiful word *caller*, so common in Scotland, comes in the same manner from *cauld* or cold. 'The *caller* air,' the fresh air. '*Caller* herrings,' fresh herrings; the well-known cry of the New-haven fishwomen in the streets of Edinburgh, and the name of a very beautiful melody composed by Neil Gow. The popular song, 'There's nae luck about the house,' which Burns calls the finest love song in our language, and written originally by William Julius Mickle, the author of the '*Lusiad*,' contains a stanza, afterwards added by Dr. James Beattie, the author of the '*Minstrel*,' in which the word is beautifully introduced.

Sae sweet his voice, sae smooth his tongue,  
His breath's like *caller* air;  
His very foot has music in't,  
As he goes up the stair.

In Newcastle, according to Brockett's 'Glossary,' '*caller* herrings,' '*caller* cockles,' and '*caller* ripe grosets' (gooseberries), were formerly common street cries.

**Callet**, a vulgar, scolding, ill-tempered, unchaste woman; an ancient word, in common use, though perishing from literature.

A *callet* of boundless tongue who late hath beat her husband.

*Winter's Tale.*

A beggar in his drink could not have laid such terms upon his *callet*.

*Othello.*

**Can,** } to be able.  
**Canning,** } being able.

'I can do it, if I like,' said a man who did not fancy a particular job to which he was set. 'What's the use of *canning*, if you won't?' was the master's rejoinder.

**Canakin,** }  
**Canikin,** } a small can or drinking cup.

Let the *canikin* clink.—*Old Song.*

**Cannie,** } a word that has no synonyme in literary English,  
**Canny,** } but which is common in the north of England and in Scotland. '*Canny* Newcastle,' and a '*canny* Scotchman,' are both local phrases. It means wise, prudent, cun-

**Cannie**—*continued.* <sup>1</sup>

ning, gentle; Brockett's 'Glossary' affirms it to imply beauty of form as well as of manners and of morals; but in Scotland it has a more extended signification. A *canny* man is a kindly man, but not so overkindly and simple as to be overreached in business, or otherwise deceived. The word also implies dexterity and ability; as in the proverb: 'They have need of a *canny* cook who have but one egg for their dinner.'

Bonny lass, *cannie* lass, wilta be mine?  
Thou'st neither wash dishes, nor sarrup\* the swine;  
Thou sall sit on a cushion and sew up a seam,  
And thou sall eat strawberries, sugar, and cream.

*Cumberland Courtship: Nursery Rhymes of England.*

**Cantie,** } cheerful, talkative, from the Gaelic *cainnt*, speech,  
**Canty,** } and *cainnteach*, talkative.

Though the word is now used only in Scotland and in the English Border Counties, it occurs in Langtoft's 'Chronicle.'

I wot she was a *cantie* queen.—*Roy's Wife of Aldivalloch.*

Contented wi' little, and *cantie* wi' mair.—*Burns.*

The clashan yill (ale) had made me *canty*,

I was na' foo but just had plenty.

*Burns: Death and Dr. Hornbook.*

Some *cannie* wee bodie may be me lot,

And aw'll be *cantie* in thinking o't.

*Newcastle Song: quoted in Brockett's North Country Glossary.*

**Cark**, to be fretfully anxious; the present participle or adjective; '*carking*,' conjoined with care, as '*carking* care,' is used by Milton.

I *carke*—I care—*je me chagrine.*—*Palsgrave: quoted by Halliwell.*

**Carle,** } Chaucer has *carle* a hardy country fellow, a word  
**Carline,** } which has been diverted from its original meaning into churl, a rude, rough, ill-natured fellow. 'Carle' as distinguished from 'churl,' deserves to be restored to a place among the honest words of the language, in the sense in which Chaucer uses it:—

The miller was a stout *carle* for the nones,  
Full big he was of braun, and eke of bones.

In this fine picture churlishness has no place. The Germans use the word in its original sense of a fellow or

\* Serve or wait upon.



**Carle**—*continued.*

man, and speak of '*ein guter kerl*,' or '*ein dummer kerl*,' as the case may be. '*Carline*,' the feminine of *carle*, is a word much needed, but which has never yet been naturalized in English literature. Burns employs it with great effect when describing what Tam o' Shanter saw in the Dance of the Witches :—

The piper loud and louder blew,  
The dancers quick and quicker flew,  
They reel'd, they set, they cross'd, they cleekit,  
Till ilka *carline* swat and reekit.

And in his epistle to James Smith—

That auld capricious *carline* Nature,  
Has turned you off, a human creature  
On her first plan,  
And in her freaks, on every feature  
She's written—MAN.

And again in the '*Jolly Beggars*'—

And next outspoke a rauchle *carline*.

The Northumberland and Scotch proverb says that '*cats and carlines* love to sit in the sun.' And another advises no man to '*let his hens crow, or the carline wear the breeks.*' '*Crooked carline!* said the cripple to his wife,' is a Scottish proverb quoted by Allan Ramsay, that conveys the same idea as the English proverb of the pot that accused the kettle of being black.

The Rev. Mr. Munro of Westray, preaching on the flight of Lot from Sodom, said :—'*The honest man and his family were ordered out of the town, and charged not to look back; but the auld carline, Lot's wife, looked ower her shoulder, for which she was smote into a lump of sawt.*' And he added, with great unction, '*O ye people of Westray, if ye had had her, mony a day since ye wad hae putten her in the parritch-pot!*'—*Dean Ramsay.*

In the north of England and south of Scotland, a *tom-cat* is popularly known as a *carle-cat*; a jack-daw is also called a '*carle-daw.*'

**Carpe**, to argue; whence the modern carping, argumentation, in an ill humour.

For my profit and my health,  
*Carpe* I would with contrition.—*Piers Ploughman.*

**Cast**, to throw.—This verb in English has lost its preterite *coost*, and its past participle *casten*. Both survive in Scotland and the north of England.

They *coost* kevils them amang  
Wha should to the greenwood gang.

*Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border.*

Burns employs the preterite in 'The Death and Dying Words of Poor Mailie':

As Mailie and her lamb thegither,  
Were ae day nibbling on the tether,  
Upon her cloot she *coost* a hitch.

And again, in his immortal song of 'Duncan Gray'—

Maggie *coost* her head fu' high,  
Looked asklent and unco skeigh,  
Gart poor Duncan stand abeigh.

In the Scottish dialect, 'to *cast* out' means 'to fall out,' 'to disagree;' and the phrase 'they have *casten* out' is of constant occurrence.

**Chaffer**, to haggle.

**Chancely**, accidentally.

**Chancy**, fortunate.

**Chang**, the humming noise of the conversation of a great number of persons, or the singing of a great number of birds.

Then doubly sweet the laverock sang,  
Wi' smiling sweets the cowslips sprang,  
And all the grove in gladsome *chang*,

Their joy confessed.—*John Stagg: Cumberland Ballads.*

**Chap**, to knock:—

I dreamed I was deed, and carried far, far, far up, till I came to heaven's yett, when I *chappit*, and *chappit*, and *chappit*, till at last an angel keekit out, and said, 'Wha are ye?'—*Dean Ramsay.*

The chiel was stout, the chiel was stark,  
And wadna bide to *chap* nor ca'.—*Holy Girzie.*

**Char**, } to work by the day. The vulgar saying, that 'job is  
**Char**, } jobbed,' was formerly, as we learn from Ray's Proverbs, 'that char is charred, as the good wife said when she hanged her husband.'

And drew his sworde prively,  
That the childe were not war,  
As he hadde done that *char*.

*Cursor Mundi MS., Trinity College, Cambridge, quoted by Halliwell.*

**Chare**, a day's work.

But e'en a woman and commanded,  
By such poor passions as the maid that milks,  
And does the meanest *chares*.

*Shakespeare: Antony and Cleopatra.*

I have no time up town to roam,  
There is odd *chares* for me to do at home.

*Praise of Yorkshire Ale, 1697.*

In some parts of England the word is pronounced *chores*.

**Chatsome**, full of gossip, chatty.

**Chide-ster**, a scolding woman, a female chider, a scolder;  
whence, perhaps, the American word '*shyster*.'

Men must enquire (this is mine assent),  
Whade she be wise and sober, or drunkelewe,  
Or proude, or elles otherways a shrewe,  
A *chidester*—or a waster of the food.

*Chaucer: The Marchant's Tale.*

**Chiel**, } a knight, a fellow, from the Gaelic *gille*—a youth.  
**Childe**, } The word has long disappeared from English literature, though Byron made a gallant attempt to revive it in  
'Childe Harold.'

Lord Ingram and *chiel* Wyett,  
Were both born in one bower,  
Laid both their hearts in one lady,  
The less was their bonheur.

*The North Countrie Garland.*

*Childe* Harold was he hight; but whence his name,  
And lineage long it suits me not to say.—*Byron*.

Auld Ayr whom ne'er a town surpasses,  
For buirdly *chiels* and clever hizzies.—*Burns*.

**Child**, }  
**Childe**, } to bear or bring forth a child.

**Childing**, child-bearing.

Which the goddess of *childing* is,  
And clepid was by name Isis.

*Gower MS., quoted by Halliwell.*

**Chimble**, } to crumble into very small fragments; to gnaw  
**Chumble**, } like a mouse or rat.

**Chimble**, } the preterite of chimble and chumble.  
**Chumbled**, }

Where hips and haws for food suffice,  
 That *chumbled* lie about his hole.

*Clare's Shepherd's Calendar.*

**Chirm**, } to sound like the murmur or song of a multiplicity  
**Charm**, } of birds.—Mr. Halliwell, in his 'Archaic Dictionary,'  
**Churm**, } defines the word to mean the melancholy undertone  
 of a bird previous to a storm. Nares, in his 'Glossary,' has  
*charre*, to make a confused noise, a word current in some  
 parts of England. The word is common in Scotland, though  
 almost obsolete in the south.

Small birds with *chirning* and with cheeping clanged their song.

*Gawin Douglas's translation of the Æneid.*

At last the kindly sky began to clear,  
 The birds to *chirm*, and daylight to appear.

*Ross's Helenore.*

Milton makes Eve speak of the '*charm* of earliest birds,' a phrase which has been misinterpreted to mean the charming (in the modern sense) song of the birds, while it really means *chirm* (in the old English sense), the confused and intermingled song of all the morning birds.

**Chit**, *v.*, to germinate, whence *chits*, children; *chitty-faced*, baby-faced; *chitterling*, a very young child, a very new blossom; *chitling*, a small, early apple; and *chits*, the first sprouts of corn from the seed.

**Chode**, preterite of chide, to reprove, scold, admonish.

**Choile**, to over-reach.

**Chuckie**, a hen.

**Chuckie-stone**, a stone about the size of a hen's egg.

**Chuff**, a term of contempt or reproach, applied to a fat, avaricious citizen. Thus Shakespeare, in the first part of Henry IV., Act II., scene ii.

Are ye undone? No, ye fat *chuffs*, I would your store were here.

Nash, in 'Pierce Penniless,' 1592, has '*chuff-headed* burgo-masters.'

**Chuff**—*continued.*

'Burns in the 'Author's Earnest Cry and Prayer to the Scotch Representatives in the House of Commons,' speaks of 'a blackguard smuggler,' cheek and jowl with a '*chuffy* vintner.'

**Clamberscull**, strong drink that clambers up to the skull; a *heady* liquor.

**Clam**, } *v.* to famish, or starve with hunger. The word starve,  
**Clem**, } from the German, *sterben*, originally meant to die; and  
we still say that a person *starves* or dies with cold; as well  
as with hunger.

Hard is the choice when the valiant must eat their arms, or *clem*.

*Ben Jonson: Every Man out of Humour.*

I cannot eat stones and turf: What, will he *clem* me and my followers?  
Ask him, an he will *clem* me.—*Ben Jonson: The Poetaster.*

My entrails were *clamm'd* with keeping a perpetual fast.

*Massinger: The Roman Actor.*

In Lancashire, Yorkshire, and the Eastern Counties, the labouring man of independent spirit still says, 'I would rather *clam* than go into the workhouse.'

**Clash**, an idle tale, or rumour of the day.

**Clave**, adhered.

Moral vulgarity *cleaved* unto him like an hereditary error.

*Felix Holt, the Radical, Vol. I. page 212.*

The ground *clave* asunder.—*Numbers* xvi. 31.

**Claw**, to flatter, to praise. The Scotch proverb says, 'Claw me, and I'll claw you;' *i.e.*, 'praise and flatter me, and I'll praise and flatter you;' and not 'scratch me, and I'll scratch you,' as some have mistranslated it: To 'clap and *claw*,' is to caress and fondle, like lovers.

Sleep when I am drowsy, and tend on no man's business; laugh when I am merry, and *claw* no man in his humour.

*Shakespeare: Much Ado about Nothing.*

**Cleave**, **Clove**, **Cleft**, **Cloven**, split.

'Cloven' foot, is used as a Scriptural phrase; but the words cleft and cloven are dropping out of the language.

Cloven—*continued.*

'We split it into two,' instead of 'we clove it into two;' and  
'it was split into two,' instead of 'it was cloven into two.'

Clad, } to clothe.—The preterite and past participle remain  
Clode, } in poetical use as well as in dignified prose, while the  
Clad, } infinite and the present and future tenses have been  
superseded by the much harsher word, 'clothe.'

The compaignie of comfort,  
Men *cleped* it some time.—*Vision of Piers Ploughman.*

They *clept* us drunkards.—*Shakespeare.*

To the Gods I *clepe*.—*Shakespeare.*

The Pope *clepeth* himself servant of the servants of God.  
*Chaucer: The Parson's Tale.*

As hounds and greyhounds, mongrels, spaniels, curs,  
Though water-rugs, and demi-wolves are *clep'd*  
All by the name of dogs.—*Macbeth.*

He *clepeth* a calf, cauf.—*Love's Labour Lost.*

The miser threw himself as an offal,  
Straight at his foot in base humilitie,  
And *cleped* him liege.—*Spenser's Faerie Queene.*

Mr. Halliwell, in his 'Archaic Dictionary,' says that this word is still used by boys at play in the Eastern Counties, who *clepe* or call the sides at a game. Many newspaper writers in the present day, at a loss for a word for *calling* or *naming* an inanimate object, talk of the '*christening*' of a church, a street, a battle, or any inanimate object. An example occurs in an editorial article of the *Times*, July 12, 1869, on the removal of the grating from the ladies' gallery in the House of Commons—"the grate question," as Mr. Lowe *christened* it.' 'The engagement at Villafranca, or Custozza, for I know not by what name the battle may be *baptized*.'—*Daily Telegraph*, July 5th, 1866. 'But the middle-class housewife, who does not know good beef from bad, is put off with the old cows and worn-out bullocks which have just grazed enough heather to be *christened* Scotch.'—*Ibid.* November 4th, 1873. 'Two years ago the defendants

**Clepe**—*continued*.

began to advertize a product which they *christened* nourishing stout.'—*Ibid.* November 13, 1873. In these, and other instances, the old word *clepe*, in default of call or name, would be an improvement, if it were possible to revive it.

**Y-clept**.

The only form in which the past participle of 'clepe' is used in modern days, is *y-clept*, applied solely in mock heroics, or in derision; or by vulgar people unaccustomed to literary composition, by whom it has been degraded into slang.

**Cleavel**, a grain of corn.

**Cleven**, the cliffs.

**Clip**, to embrace, to fondle.

Oh that I had my lady at this bay,  
To kiss and *clip* me till I run away.—*Shakespeare*.

Oh let me *clip* ye  
In arms as round as when I woo'd.

*Shakespeare: Coriolanus.*

Then embraces his son-in law; then again worries he his daughter with *clipping* her.—*Shakespeare: Winter's Tale.*

The lusty vine not jealous of the ivy,  
Because she *clips* the elm.—*Beaumont and Fletcher.*

Worse than Tantalus is her annoy,  
To *clip* Elysium and lack her joy.

*Shakespeare: Venus and Adonis.*

The preterite of 'clip,' to embrace, was formerly 'clap.' This is lost as a verb, but survives as a substantive, and sometimes as the infinitive of a verb, with an offensive meaning.

**Clointer**, to tread heavily.

**Clomb**, preterite of climb.

So *clomb* this first grand thief into God's fold.—*Paradise Lost.*

The moon had *clomb* the highest hill.—*Burns.*

**Clour**, a lump on the flesh, caused by a heavy blow.

That cane o' yours would gi'e a *clour* on a man's head enouch to produce a phrenological faculty.—*Professor Wilson: Noctes Ambrosianæ.*

**Clout**, to patch, to mend ;—a patch, a rag ; whence dish-clout, a dish-rag.

And cast on my clothes,  
Y-clouted and whole.—*Piers Ploughman*.

Thereon lay a little childe lapped in *cloutes*.—*Piers Ploughman*.

From the following line in 'Love's Labour's Lost,'

Indeed and must shoot nearer, or he'll ne'er hit the *clout*,  
it would appear that a rag—probably a white one—was placed in the middle of a target as a mark.

*Clout* the auld, the new are dear,  
My Jo Janet.—*Scotch Song*.

As he went for the weel faur'd maid,  
A beggar bold, I wat met he,  
Was covered in a *clouted* cloak.

*Willie Wallace, Johnson's Museum*.

Better a *clout* in, than a hole out.

---

An old sack craves muckle *clouting*.

---

Money is welcome in the dirtiest *clout*.

---

I thought he slept ; and put  
My *clouted* brogues from off my feet, whose rudeness  
Answered my steps too loud.—*Shakespeare: Cymbeline*.

Many sentences of one meaning, *clouted* up together.—*Roger Ascham*.

**Clouter**, a cobbler, in the North of England, and midland counties of Scotland.

Never find fault with my shoon, unless ye'll pay the *clouter*.  
*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs*.

**Clouterly**, clumsily, in a cobbler's manner.

**Clump**, to walk heavily and awkwardly ; whence clumsy.

**Clunch**, close-grained ; applied to stone or wood ; and metaphorically to the temper or disposition.

**Clyte** ; this useful word is employed to express the confusion of an orator, who for want of a word or an idea, suddenly stops in his speech, and sits down. When a bird of prey pounces down from the clouds upon a small bird, he is said to 'clyte' upon it ; and in like manner the lark, when it



**Clyte**—*continued.*

suddenly ceases its song, and drops like a stone to the ground, 'clytes.' In the Dutch and Flemish languages, both of which have so many words in common with the English, *kluyt*, from whence the English 'clod,' signifies the greensward; and hence the word *clyte* may possibly be derived from the action of dropping or falling from a height upon the *clyte*, clod, or grass. 'I couldna find words to finish my speech,' said a Glasgow Bailie, 'so I *clyted*.' In Allan Ramsay's poems the word is spelled *cloit*.

I fairly *cloited*,  
On the cauld eard.

*William Hamilton of Gilbertfield, to Allan Ramsay.*

In Grose's 'Provincial Glossary,' *clyte* is stated to be a Kentish word for clay or mire.

**Clythe**, the herb 'burdock,' or burr-thistle.

**Cockernonie**, a gathering up of the hair of women, after a fashion similar to that of the modern 'chignon':—

I saw my Meg come linkin' ower the lea—  
I saw my Meg, but Meggie saw na me—  
Her *cockernonie* snooded up fu' sleek.

*Allan Ramsay.*

But I doubt the daughter's a silly thing: an unco *cockernony* she had busked on her head at the kirk last Sunday.—*Scott: Old Mortality.*

**Cod**, a pillow, bag, or cushion. In Scottish phrase a 'down-cod,' signifies a pillow of down.

Fair *cod* of silke,  
Chalk white as the milke.

*MS., Lincoln: quoted by Halliwell.*

Cod also signifies a bag or receptacle, as in the modern word, peas-cod, the bag in which the peas rest.

**Cog**, *v.*, to entice, to swindle, to lie, to cheat, to load dice, from the Gaelic *caog*, to wink, or give a sign to a confederate.

Sweet adieu,  
Since you can *cog*, I'll play no more with you.

*Shakespeare: Love's Labour's Lost.*

Lo, here good reader, another manifest example of the dishonest dealing and false *cogging* of those men.—*Fox: Book of Martyrs.*

Quality! as quality in fashion,  
Drinking, lying, *cogging*, &c.

*Ford: The Sun's Darling.*

**Cog**—*continued.*

He heard there was a club of cheats,  
 Who had contrived a thousand feats ;  
 Could change the stock, or *cog* a dye,  
 And thus deceive the sharpest eye.

*Swift.*

When lazy queens have nought to do,  
 But study how to *cog* and lie,  
 To mage debate and mischief too,  
 'Twixt one another secretly.

*Robin Goodfellow ; Percy's Reliques.*

**Cog**, or **Cogie**, a bowl or cup, also a basin, from the Gaelic *cuach* ; used either for broth, ale, or stronger drink :—

I canna want my *cogie*, sir,  
 I canna want my *cogie* ;  
 I winna want my three-girred *cog*  
 For a' the wives in Bogle.

*Duke of Gordon.*

**Coil**, a din ; a confusion. The word *coil* in Hamlet's soliloquy :

When we have shuffled off this mortal *coil*,

has not this meaning, but apparently refers to the bondage of life ; from coil, a twisted mass of rope.

To see them about nothing, keeping such a *coil*.

*Sir John Suckling.*

This bubble shall not henceforth trouble me,  
 Here is a *coil* with protestation.

*Two Gentlemen of Verona.*

The wedding being there to-morrow, there is a great *coil* to-night.  
*Much Ado about Nothing.*

**Conne**, or **Can**, to be able. Neither the infinitive nor the past participle of this verb seems to have been used since the days of Chaucer, who says, 'I shall not *conne* answer ;' and in the 'Romance of the Rose' has 'Thou shalt never *conne* known.'

**Couth**, } kindly, graceful, familiar, affectionate, smooth, agree-  
**Couthie**, } able. The common word *uncouth* expresses the  
 absence of these qualities, with the addition of strange-  
 ness. *Couth* originally meant 'known,' and *uncouth* 'un-  
 known.' From *uncouth* comes the Scottish 'unco,' or very.

**Couth**—*continued*.

*Couth*, known, has gradually come to signify familiar, and therefore pleasant.

My ain *couthie* dame.—*Archibald Mackay's Ingle-side Lilts*.

**Covine**, a deceitful contrivance between two or more persons to get the better of, or injure another ; also, to contrive deceitfully.

**Coy**, quiet.

Tenez vous *coi* ; j'appellerai ma mère.

Keep it *coy*.—*The Evergreen*, by Allan Ramsay.

**Cozie**, snug, warm, pleasant, more than comfortable.

**Craft**, a trade, art, business, strength, whence handicraft, craftsman, and crafty. In Anglo-Saxon, crafty, signified skilfully made ; astronomy was star-craft ; surgery, leech-craft, and a ship skilfully put together was, and is still, called a good 'craft.'

'Of all *crafts*,' says an ancient English proverb, 'an honest man is the master *craft*.' This aphorism recurs in fewer words in Allan Ramsay's Scottish proverbs : 'Honesty is the best *craft*,' or, in more modern phrase, the best policy.

'Craft and cunning,' originally meant skill and ability. It speaks well for the virtue of our Anglo-Saxon ancestors, that they had so great a paucity of words to express the refinements of wickedness, and to depict the shady side of human nature. It is a pity, however, that increasing civilization has not been able to coin words of its own, to convey the new meanings, that a more artificial state of society renders necessary ; and that the sturdy old words are perverted from their original signification.

**Crambles**, boughs and branches of trees, broken off by the wind.

**Crank**, a twist, a turn, a bend ; whence the modern vulgarism 'cranky,' applied to one who has a twist in his intellect ; also a turn of words, as in Milton :

Quips and *cranks* and wanton wiles.

In Shakespeare's 'Venus and Adonis,' we have

*Cranks* and crosses with a thousand doubles.

**Crants**, from the German '*kranz*;' a wreath, a coronal of flowers.

Yet here she is allowed her virgin *crants*.

*Shakespeare: Hamlet, act v. scene 2.*

**Creel**, from the French *creil*, a wicker or fish basket.

The boatie rows, the boatie rows,

The boatie rows fu' weel,

And muckle luck attend the boat,

The merlin and the *creel*.

*Scotch Song.*

**Crine**, } to shrivel from heat, frost, or sickness, from the  
**Crone**, } Gaelic *crion*, small. This verb, with all its declen-  
**Crunkn**, } sions, has perished, and only survives in its diminutive, to *crinkle*. In this last form it is rather of the middle ages than of our own. See the ballad of the 'Boy and the Mantle' in Percy's *Reliques*.

**Crink**, a very small shrunkn child.

**Crisple**, a curl, a lovelock.

**Crone**, an old woman, a witch. Worcester, in his Dictionary, derives this word from the Scottish 'croon'—'the hollow muttering sound with which old witches uttered their incantations.' A possible derivation is from the old word *crine*, to shrink; of which the preterite was *crone*, shrunkn. If this derivation were correct, *crone* would mean a shrunkn, withered old woman.

**Crony**, a comrade, a dear friend, a boon companion. This Scottish word seems to have been introduced to English notice by James I. It was used by Swift and other writers of his period, and was admitted into Johnson's Dictionary.

To oblige your *crony* Swift,  
 Bring our dame a New-Year's gift.

*Swift.*

And at his elbow Souter Johnny,  
 His ancient, trusty, drouthy *crony*.

*Burns: Tam o' Shanter.*

**Croodle**, to creep close; the diminutive of *crowd*, or *cruth*, a fiddle, and signifying the low faint music of birds, as well as the humming of a tune. In Scotland 'a *croodlin* doo,' or dove, is a term of peculiar endearment to a timid child.

There's ae thing keeps my heart right,  
 Whate'er the world may do,  
 A wee thing, mine ain thing,  
 Wi' e'en of sparkling blue.

**Croodle**—*continued*.

A wee thing, mine ain thing,  
 A pledge o' love most true,  
 A bonnie, bonnie, bonnie, bonnie  
 Wee *croodlin* doo.—*Old Song*.  
 Far ben thy dark green plantin' shade,  
 The cushat *croodles* amorously.—*Tannahill*.

**Crooken**, to crook, to bend.

Knightes *crooken* him to.—*Piers Ploughman*.

**Crool**, defined in Phillips' 'World of Words,' 1678, as an old word, meaning to *mutter*.**Croon**, to hum over a tune to one's self; to try, or prelude a melody.

The sisters gray, before this day,  
 Did *croon* within their cloister.—*Allan Ramsay: The Evergreen*.  
 Whiles holding fast his guid blue bonnet,  
 Whiles *crooning* o'er some auld Scots sonnet.—*Burns: Tam o' Shanter*.  
 Wi' hand on hainch and upward ee  
 He *croon'd* his gamut, one, two, three.—*Burns: The Jolly Beggars*.  
 Such as corpse-watching beldame *croons*.—*Studies from the Antique*.

**Crope**, preterite of creep.**Crouse**, merry, brisk, lively. A Scotch and Border word; apparently derived from the same source as *carouse*.

Drayton uses it in a somewhat different sense: meaning bold, and excited.

And now of late Duke Humphrey's old allies,  
 Which banished Eleanor's accomplices,  
 Attending their revenge grow wondrous *crouse*,  
 And threaten death and vengeance to our house.

Dr. Jamieson thinks the word is derived from the Dutch *croes*, or the German *kraus*, crisp, and curly; while Mr. Halliwell thinks it is connected with *crus*, or cross, angry; as in the following passage from *Cursor Mundi MS.*, *Trinity College, Cambridge*:

Against him was he kene and *crous*,  
 And said, goth out of my Fadir hous.

In Scottish poetry the word has invariably a signification of liveliness and joviality: more suggestive of its French, than of its supposed German and Dutch origin.

**Crowd**, *n.*, a fiddle, violin, from the Welsh *crwde*, and the Gaelic *cruit*, a harp.

**Crowd,** } to play the violin, or other similar instrument ; to  
**Crood,** } sing.

**Crowder,** a fiddler ; or public singer.

A lackey that can warble upon a *crowd* a little.—*Ben Jonson*.

I never heard the old song of Percy and Douglas, that I found not my heart moved more than with a trumpet ; and yet it is but sung by some blind *crowder*.—*Sir Philip Sidney*.

**Culver,** a pigeon, or dove.

Like as the *culver* on the bared bough,  
 Sits mourning for the absence of her mate.—*Spenser*.

**Culverhouse,** a dove-cot.

**Culverwort,** the herb columbine.

**Cumber,** an encumbrance.

**Cumberworld,** a man or woman so old as to be helpless ; or a person so idle, dissolute, or deformed as to be a burthen to his friends and to society.

**Cumberground,** anything utterly worthless and in people's way ; something that ought to be destroyed or buried out of sight.

**Cushat,** the wood-pigeon.

**Cut.** This verb never appears to have had a preterite, though a past participle *ykitt* or *ykutt* is cited in Herbert Coleridge's vocabulary of the 'Oldest Words in the English Language.' Whence or when the word was introduced into English no lexicographer has ever yet been able to determine. It is neither derived from the Anglo-Saxon, the French, the Greek, nor the Latin, and is therefore, by the exhaustive process, supposed by the most recent compilers of dictionaries to have been borrowed from the Celtic. A near approach to it occurs in the French 'couteau,' a knife or instrument to cut with ; in the Italian 'coltello,' and in the English and Scottish 'coultter,' the ploughshare, or knife of the plough. It may be that the original word was 'kit,' whence 'ykitt,' cited by Mr. Coleridge, and that it formed its preterite by 'cat' and 'cut.' Some little support for this idea may be found in the word 'cat' as applied in 'cat-o'-nine-tails,' a weapon that cuts pretty severely ; and in 'kit-cat,' as applied to portraits that are not exactly full-length, but cut to three-quarters length, as those painted for the celebrated 'Kit-Kat Club.'

**Dab**, dexterous, clever.

**Dabster**, a proficient.

**Daff**, } to make a fool of, to play the fool. 'Daffe' in Chaucer  
**Daft**, } signifies a fool; and in the Scottish and North English  
 dialect a 'daft' man signifies a lunatic, or one who has been  
 befooled. 'Daffing' signifies foolish fun or merriment. In  
 the scene between Leonato and Claudio in 'Much Ado  
 about Nothing,' when Claudio declines to fight the old man,  
 and says :

Away ! away ! I will not have to do with you,

Leonato replies :

Canst thou so *daff* me? Thou hast killed my child.

Both Mr. Charles Knight and Mr. Howard Stanton, following in the track of other Shakesperian editors, explain 'daff' in this passage to mean 'doff,' or 'put off.' The true meaning is to 'befool,' as the word is used in Chaucer. When, elsewhere, Shakespeare says of Prince Henry :

Thou madcap Prince of Wales, that *daffed* the world aside,  
 the meaning of the word is the same. The 'madcap' did not 'doff' the world aside, for in this sense the expression would be pleonastic, but 'daffed' or 'fooled' or 'jested it aside, as a madcap would.

I think the power of the Scottish idiom was happily exemplified by the late Dr. Adam of the High School of Edinburgh, in his translation of the Horatian expression, 'desipere in loco,' which he turned by the Scottish phrase, 'weel-timed *daffin*.'—*Dean Ramsay*.

Or maybe in a frolic *daft*

To Hague or Calais take a waft.—*Burns : The Two Dogs*.

**Dag**, } a hanging shred, or rag ; *daglet*, an icicle ; *daggle*, to  
**Dagge**, } trail one's rags on the ground or in the mire. The  
 sharp projecting stump of a tree or branch, is in Dorsetshire  
 and Devonshire called a *dag*; and in Kent, *dag wool* means  
 the shreds of wool, torn by thorns, brushwood, or hedges  
 from the backs of the sheep.

**Daggled**, wet.

**Daggly**, showery.

**Bedaggled**, wet, wetted.

Good morrow to the day so fair,

Good morrow, sir, to yon,

Good morrow to my own brown hair,

*Bedaggled* with the dew.—*The Mad Maia's Song*.

**Daggle-tail,** } a slovenly woman, whose skirts draggle in the  
**Draggle-tail,** } wet or mire.

**Damerel,** from the French *dame*, an effeminate man, over-  
**Dammerel,** fond of the society of women, and disinclined  
 to that of his own sex.

**Dare,** } The tendency of our modern and colloquial English,  
**Dared,** } as well as of our current literature, is to ignore the  
**Durst,** } preterite and the past participle of this word, and  
 to write and say *dare* where *durst* or *dared* would be  
 more correct. There is also a tendency to omit the *s* in the  
 third person singular of the present tense. The following  
 are examples of each inaccuracy :—

Neither her maidens nor the priest *dare* speak to her for half an hour  
 (*durst* speak to her, &c.)—*Rev. Charles Kingsley: Hereward the Wake.*

The Government *dare* (*durst*) not consent to the meeting held.  
 . . . . No one can feel anything but contempt for a Government which  
 meanly attempts to gain a cheap reputation for firmness by fulminations  
 which it *dare* (*dares*) not carry out ; and by prohibiting meetings which it  
*dare* (*dares*) not prevent.—*Morning Star, on the Hyde Park Riots, 1866.*

The devils of passion and wounded pride were 'struggling within her,  
 and she *dare* (*durst*) not trust herself to open her lips.

*Cast Away, All the Year Round, August 12, 1871.*

There is no reason why this verb should be deprived of its  
 declensions, and no careful writer ought to fall into the errors  
 just cited.

**Darg.** Upon the principle that one word which expresses a  
 meaning not otherwise to be conveyed except in two or more,  
*darg*, a day's work, ought to be reinstated in the language  
 with all the honour to which it is entitled. The most recent  
 dictionaries pass it over, and both Dr. Trench and Dean  
 Hoare in their interesting treatises upon ancient English  
 Words, omit all mention of it. Worcester's Dictionary  
 (1860), cites and mis-spells the word, as *dargue*, and describes  
 it, on the authority of the 'Farmer's Encyclopædia,' to mean  
 the quantity of peat one man can cut, and two can wheel in  
 one day ; but the true meaning is a day's work, whether at  
 peat-cutting or any other occupation. Mr. Halliwell gives  
 the Cumberland pronunciation of the word as darrack. 'I'll  
 do my *darg* before I arg,' (i.e., argue), is a proverb current  
 in the eastern counties, and one much to be commended.  
 Another well known on both sides of the Border, tells us  
 truly 'that the man never did a good *darg* who went grum-



**Darg**—*continued*.

bling about it ;' while a third says. ' You will spoil the *darg*, if you stop the plough to slay a mouse.'

Luath, the poor man's dog in Burns' poem, tells his friend Cæsar, that his master has himself, his wife, and a 'smytrie o' wee duddie weans,' (i.e., a host of little ragged children,) to keep out of nothing but his 'hand-*darg*,' or the day's work of his hands. And the Auld Farmer in his New Year's salutation to his auld mare Maggie, says to her :

Mony a sair *darg* we twa hae wrought,  
An' wi' the weary world fought.

**Dash**, a knot, a bow in a ribbon ; whence *chin-bow-dash*, a cravat under the chin ; and *berdash*, or beard-dash, the knot or cravat tied under the beard. *Dashing*, in the sense of gay and lively, and adorned with finery, is perhaps from the same root ; 'a *dashing* girl ;' 'a *dashing* white sergent.'

**Daunch**, fastidious, dainty, overnice, squeamish.

**Daunt**, } to subdue, tame, or terrify ; hence the ancient word  
**Daunton**, } 'horse-daunter,' a man whose business it was to break or tame horses.

And though his subtle wittes,  
He *daunted* down.—*Piers Ploughman*.

To *daunt* thy heart.—*Chaucer : Romance of the Rose*.

If a man will not *daunt* sensualitie when he may, therefore is he worthy to have shame.—*Chaucer : The Purser's Tale*.

Dauntless, and undaunted, derived from this root, are used by the best writers and speakers. In Scotland the verb is current under the form of daunton :

To *daunton* me, to *daunton* me,  
And me King James's eldest son.—*Jacobite Ballad*.

**Daw-cock**, a Jackdaw.

**Dawks**, a woman who wears very fine clothes, but puts them on slovenly, so that they do not become her.

**Dave**, to thaw.

**Daver**, to droop.

**Daysmath**, a day's mowing.

**Daize**, } to stupefy, whence dazzle, or blind the eyes with  
**Daise**, } excess of light ; to benumb, to congeal with cold.

**Daze**—*continued*.

For in good faith thy visage is full pale,  
Thine eyes *daser*, soothly as me thinketh.  
*Chaucer: The Manciple's Prologue.*

My *daisit* held,  
I raised up half in one lethargie.—*Police of Honour.*  
Gin he likes drink 'twad alter soon the case,  
It son wad gar his love to me turn cauld,  
And mak him *dazed* and doited ere half auld.—*Shirref.*

**Deal,** } from the German *theil*, a portion. 'A great deal' is  
**Dealth,** } still a common phrase. The opposite, 'a small  
deal,' has dropped out of use.

All the ground that they had, a man might have bought with a small  
*deal* of money.—*Roger Ascham, quoted by Nares.*

Where Fortune has bestowed her large *dealth*.—*Nares.*

**Dearworth**, precious.—*Chaucer.*

**Deave**, to deafen, stun, or perplex one with much noise.

The jargon of the jangling jays,  
The croaking craws and kackling kayes,  
They *deaved* me with their din.—*The Cherry and the Sloe, 1590.*  
Last May a braw wooer came down the lang glen,  
And sair wi' his love he did *deave* me.—*Burns.*  
She has an ee, she has but ane,  
The cat has twa the very colour,  
Five rusty teeth, forbye a stump,  
A clapper tongue wad *deave* a miller.

*Burns: Sic a Wife as Willie had.*

If mair they *deave* us with their din,  
Or patronage intrusion.—*Burns: The Ordination.*

A north country proverb says: 'I will not be *deaved* with  
your cackling for all your eggs.'

**Deem,** } to judge. This word, which now signifies 'to  
**Doom,** } think' rather than 'to judge,' and which has lost its  
**Deemed,** } old preterite *doom*, formerly implied the delivery of  
a doom, sentence, or judgment. Chaucer calls a judge a  
*doomsman*; and in the Isle of Man the judge is still called  
the *dempster* or *deemster*. The day of doom is the day of  
judgment. Chaucer does not use the old preterite *doom*,  
which seems to have perished before his time; but in the  
'Franklein's Prologue' uses the substantive *doom* in the sense  
of an opinion or a private judgment:—

As to my *doom*, there is more that is here  
Of cloquence that shall be thy peer,  
If that thou live.

**Deem**—*continued*.

Out of the lost preterite the English writers of three centuries ago formed a new verb, to *doom*, with a regular preterite, *doomed*—a word which does not merely signify to pass judgment upon, but to pass a severe sentence.

**Deft**, dexterous, neat, clever, handy.

He said I were a *deft* lass.—*Brown's Northern Lass*.

A laughter never left,  
Shook all the blessed deities, to see the lame so *deft*,  
At that cup service.—*Chapman's Homer*.

A clear nymph  
Comes *deftly* dancing.—*Drayton's Polyolbion*.

They dance *deftly*, and sing sweet.

*Spenser: Shepherd's Calendar*.

**Deftster**, one who is deft, a proficient in his art or craft; corrupted into *dabster*.

**Delightsome**, delightful.

Then deck them with thy loose *delightsome* breath,  
And on thy wings bring delicate perfumes.—*Peele*.

Laughed *delightfully*.—*Chapman's Homer*.

**Delve**, } to dig, to bury. This word is still in common use  
**Dolve**, } among the peasantry; but the preterite and the past  
**Dolven**, } participle have long since disappeared.

When Adam *delved*, and Eve span,  
Who was then the gentleman?

was a distich popular during Wat Tyler's rebellion, and written by John Ball, the priest, hanged and beheaded at St. Albans.

In the 'Romance of Merlin,' we find the past participle *dolven*.

All *quick* he should *dolven* be.

Piers Ploughman has, 'They *dolven* with spades and shovels to drive away hunger.' Keats, in more modern times, employs *delved*.—

Oh for a draught of vintage that hath been  
Cooled a long age in the deep *delved* earth!

If he had said 'deep *dolven*' instead of 'deep *delved*,' he would have had high authority, and would have greatly improved the stately march and music of his verse.

**Dene,** } a woody valley of small extent ; such as Deepdene,  
**Den,** } near Dorking ; Hawthornden, near Edinburgh, the  
 seat of the poet Drummond ; ' the dowie *dens* of Yarrow ;'  
 and many other places of less note.

**Dere,** to injure.

Shall never devil him *dere*.—*Piers Ploughman*.

No dint shall him *dere*.—*Ibid*.

May no death him *dere*.—*Ibid*.

**Derne,** } secret,  
**Dernely,** } secretly.

Her eggs fall *derne*,  
 In mareys and moores.—*Piers Ploughman*.

**Derne,** eager, earnest, sharp.

By many a *derne* and painful perch.—*Pericles*.

By *derne* love of the dear loving lord.—*Spiritual Sonnets*, 1595.

**Dew-cup,** } the morning allowance of beer to harvest  
**Dew-drink,** } labourers.

**Dight,** to prepare, dress, get ready. The word seems to have  
 been without change for the preterite and past participle.

The lady looked out of her pavilion,  
 And saw him *dight* the venison.

*Metrical Romance: The Life of Ipomydon.*

The lady lay in a high tower,  
 And saw between them all the stour ;  
 But she wist na which for her did fight,  
 For they in like weed were *dight*.—*Ibid*.

Soon was the lady *dight*  
 In arms, as if it were a knight,  
 He gave her spear and shield.

*Metrical Romance of Sir Isumbras.*

Then forth the stranger knight he came,  
 In his black armour *dight* ;  
 The lady sighed a gentle sigh,  
 That this were my true knight !

*Sir Caulyne: Percy's Reliques.*

Come, Colin, *dight* your cheeks and banish care ;  
 Our lady's happy.—*Allan Ramsay: On the Death of the Countess of Wigton.*

**Dight**—*continued.*

The clouds in thousand liveries *dight*.—*Milton's L' Allegro.*

*Dight* your bonny mou !—*Burns.*

Let me rax (reach) up to *dight* that tear,

And go wi' me and be my dear.—*Burns: The Jolly Beggars.*

**Dill**, the aromatic plant, *Anethum graveolens.*

**Dill-water**, an anodyne.

**Dimmen**, to grow dark or dim.

**Dimmet**,  
**Dimming**, } the twilight.

**Dimpse**, the dimming of the daylight.

**Ding**, } to strike hard, to beat down.—The infinitive and  
**Dang**, } present tense of this verb are still colloquially current,  
**Dong**, } but the preterite and past participle are obsolete, or  
**Dung**, } only survive in the nursery phrase, '*Ding, dong, bell.*'

In Scotland the verb and all its inflections survive. Burns, in his immortal and often-quoted line, says, 'Facts are chieles that winna *ding*.' Sir Alexander Boswell has a song entitled '*Jenny dang* the Weaver,' which expression was translated by an English critic into the very prosaic form of '*Jenny vanquished the manufacturer.*' The past participle occurs in the familiar proverbs quoted by Allan Ramsay, 'It's a sair *dung* bairn that manna greet,' and 'He's sairest paid that's *dung* wi' his ain wand.' The modern English preterite *dinged* is still occasionally heard in conversation, though lost to literature, as in such phrases: 'Horace? Yes; he was *dinged* into me at school;' and colloquially, 'Why do you keep *dinging* that old story into my ears?' The word constantly occurs in serious poetry up to the time of Shakespeare and Ben Jonson.

Do-well shall *dynge* him down,

And destroyen his mighte.—*Piers Ploughman.*

The hellish prince, grim Pluto with his mace, *ding* down my soul to hell !—*The Battle of Alcazar.*

That wolde defend me the doore,

*Dyng* I never so late.—*Piers Ploughman.*

His head he struck, his hands he wrang,

And each hand on another *dang*.—*Romance of Sir Eger, Sir Grahame, and Sir Gray Steel.*

**Ding**—*continued*.

This stone wall I shall down *ding*.

*MS. Cantab., quoted by Halliwell.*

Now let us sing our cares to *ding*,

And make a gladsome sound.

*Advice to be Liberal and Blythe; The Evergreen, edited  
by Allan Ramsay.*

In Shropshire, as well as in the north, according to Mr. Halliwell, 'dung' is a word still current, meaning beaten, or overcome.

*Dung* is a common word among the English working classes, to signify a man who consents to work for a master when his fellows are out on strike; he is one who is *dung*, i.e., subdued, beaten down, or conquered by his employer.

'Dang it, Bill, don't say so,' is, according to Mr. Sternberg, a contraction of 'God hang it;' but is more probably derived from 'ding it,' i.e., knock it down.

The goat gives a good milking, but *dings* it down with her feet.

*Ramsay's Scottish Proverb.*

Let one devil *ding* another.—*Northern Proverb.*

But alas! my ain wand *dings* me now.

*Ballad of the Marchioness of Douglas.*

The carline she was stark and sture,

She off the hinges *dang* the door.

*Ballad of Cospatrick, Motherwell's Collection.*

**Dingthrift**, a prodigal; i.e., a person who *dings* or strikes at and beats down the thrift, or savings of his ancestors.

**Dirl**, to vibrate and shake from the effects of a heavy blow, or of a loud noise. In Yorkshire, according to Mr. Halliwell, *dirl* means to move briskly; and a *dirl*er is an active person. In Scottish poetry the word is highly expressive. Thus, in 'Death and Dr. Hornbook,' when Death complains that he threw a dart that ought to have killed a man, and with less than which he had slain hundreds, Hornbook had so fortified the part, that the arrow-point played *dirl* upon the bone, and was so blunt afterwards that he could not have pierced a cabbage-stalk with it.

**Dirl**—*continued.*

And in 'Tam o' Shanter' the devil plays the bag-pipes so loudly that 'the roof and rafters a' did *dirl*.'

The raptures *dirl* through every part.

*John Stags: The Blind Bard of Cumberland.*

**Dither**, to shake, to tremble.

**Dodder**, to tremble in the wind, to nod and shake, as in palsy or decrepitude.

Rocked by the blast and cabined in the storm,  
The sailor hugs them to the *doddering* mast,  
Of shipwreck negligence, while thou art kind.

*Thompson's Seasons.*

There vexit, perplexit,

I leant me down to weep,

In brief there, with grief there,

I *doddered* owre in sleep.—*Allan Ramsay: The Vision.*

**Dodder-grass**, quaking grass, that trembles in the wind.

**Dodderil**, } a very old tree, or a very old man; one who  
**Dotteril**, } shakes to every storm.

**Doff**, do off.

*Doff* that lion's hide,

And hang a calf's-skin on thy recreant limbs.—*Shakespeare.*

**Doit**, to stupefy.

**Doited**, stupid.

Thou (drink) clears the head o' *doited* lear.—*Burns: Scotch Drink.*

**Dole**, preterite of *deal*.

He *dole* it out.

**Dole**, a lot, a portion; fortune (good or ill.)

Happy man be his *dole*!

**Doly**, mournful, melancholy, doleful.

**Don**, to do on.

**Dorty**, conceited, proud, stubborn, ill-tempered.

**Douce**, of a gentle or courteous disposition; from the French *doux*, sweet:

Ye daintie deacons and ye *douce* conveners.—*Burns: The Brigs of Ayr.*

**Dour**, hard, bitter, disagreeable, close-fisted, severe, stern:

When biting Boreas, fell and *dour*,

Sharp shivers through the leafless bower.—*Burns: A Winter Night.*

Dout, to do out, or extinguish.

I have a speech of fire that fain would blaze,  
But that this folly *douts* it.—*Shakespeare: Hamlet.*

*Dout* the glim : i.e., extinguish the light, nautical phrase.

Douter, an extinguisher.

He's *douted*, a vulgarism, for he is dead, done for, extinguished.—*Halliwell.*

**Dow**, to be able, to thrive; *dought*, was able. This verb is lost from English literature, but, like many others of its sturdy class, exists in the speech of the English peasantry, and in the speech as well as the literature of Scotland. By a strange neglect, or a stranger ignorance, the makers of dictionaries—from Blount and Phillips up to Richardson, Worcester, and Webster—have either omitted all mention of it, or erroneously considered it to be 'synonymous with, or an orthographical error for, the word 'do,' with which it has no connection. 'I do as well as I *dow*'—i.e., 'I do as well as I can'—is a common phrase in the north; and the super-eminently English but pleonastic inquiry, 'How do you do?' which means 'How do you *dow*?'—i.e., thrive, prosper, or get on—has come to be accepted as accurate English, though wholly a mistake of the learned. Even Nares, in his 'Glossary,' has no suspicion of this word, though Halliwell, more acute, gives one of its meanings, 'to thrive,' 'to mend in health; and Mr. Thomas Wright, in his 'Provincial Dictionary,' follows in the same track as regards its use in English literature, though he does not seem to be aware of its commonness in the literature of Scotland. William Hamilton, the Scottish poet, writes to his friend Allan Ramsay :

Lang may'st thou live and thrive and *dow* !

And Burns says to Gavin Hamilton :

When I *downa* joke a naig,  
The Lord be thankit, I can beg !

In his 'Epistle to King George III.,' in his eulogy of facts, Burns speaks of them as 'chiels that winna ding,' and adds, 'they *downa* be disputed.' Ross, in his 'Helenore,' has 'When he *dow* do nae mair,'—a phrase that shows the essential difference between the two words.



**Dow**—*continued.*

From this obsolete verb springs the adjective *doughty*, strong, able—a derivation which up to the present time seems to have escaped all the English lexicographers.

Do as well as you *dow*; i.e., do as well as you can.—*Cumberland Proverb.*

**Downcome**, a stroke of adversity, a fall; a reverse of fortune.

**Dowff**, dispirited, weary, dejected.

**Dowie**, forlorn, weary, dejected, black-looking; from the Gaelic *duibhe*, blackness.

Sore and long may their sorrow last,  
Binnorie, oh Binnorie,  
That wrought them sic a *dowie* cast,  
By the bonnie mill dams o' Binnorie.

*Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border.*

Sir, I am standing here, she says,  
This *dowie* death to die;  
One kiss o' your comelie mouth,  
I'm sure would comfort me.—*Motherwell's Scottish Ballads.*

Stay at home, my lord, she said  
For that will breed much sorrow,  
For my true brethren will them slay,  
On the *dowie* dens o' Yarrow.

*Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border.*

**Drabble**, dirty people, drabs, scullions.

Rabble and *drabble*.

One is said to *drabble* his clothes, who slobbers his vest or other attire in eating.—*Jamieson's Dictionary.*

**Dread**, } to fear greatly. The modern preterite and past  
**Drad**, } participle *dreaded* has entirely superseded the  
**Dradden**, } ancient forms :

But what I *drad*, did me, poor wretch, betide.

*Robert Greene* : 1593.

In haubeck Guy him clad,  
He *drad* no stroke while he it had.—*Guy of Warwick.*

**Dree**, to suffer, to endure.

Another dule ye *dree*.—*Percy's Reliques.*

Pride in a poor man's breast has muckle to *dree*.

*Northern Proverb.*

**Droil**, *n.* a drudge, drudgery; *v.* to drudge.

Then I begin to rave at my star's bitterness,  
To see how many muckhills placed above me,  
Peasants and *droils*.

*Beaumont and Fletcher.*

'Tis I do all the *droil*, the dirty work.

*Shirley: Gentleman of Venice.*

Oh who would *droil*,  
Or delve in such a soil,  
Where gain's uncertain, and the pain no more?

*Quarles' Emblems.*

Let such vile vassals, born to base vocation,  
Drudge in the world and for their living *droil*,  
Which have no wit to live withouten toil.

*Spenser: Faerie Queene.*

Left the dull and *droiling* carcase to plod on in the old road and drudging trade of controversy.—*Milton: Of Reform.*

**Drouk**, to soak, or wet.

**Droukit**, } soaked, wet.  
**Drookit**, }

My *drookit* sark sleeve as ye ken.—*Robert Burns.*

**Drouth**, thirst, or dryness.

**Drouthy**, thirsty, or dry.

Now noise prevails and he is taxed for *drouth*  
Of wit.

*Carew.*

So that I now began to think,  
Being *drouthy* on a little drink.—*Hudibras Redivivus.*

Then comes the feverish fiend with fiery eyes,  
Whom *drouth*, convulsions, and death surround.

*Granger's Sugar Cane.*

The word is evidently derived from the same root as the modern *drought*; formerly, says Johnson, written *drouth*, and in still older time *drythe*.

An old proverb says:

Drink and *drouth*, do not always come together.

Another proverb puts into English the Latin, 'In vino veritas'—'He speaks in his drink, what he thought in his *drouth*;' while a third aphorism thinks it hard that a neighbour should 'speak of a man's drinking, without giving a thought about his *drouth*.'

**Drouthy**—*continued.*

When chapman billies leave the street  
 And *drouthy* neighbours, neighbours meet.

\* \* \* \* \*

And at his elbow souter John,  
 His ancient, trusty, *drouthy* crony.—*Burns: Tam o' Shanter.*  
 The blither for their *drouth*.—*Shakespeare: Pericles.*

That irritating, embarrassing Sunday trading question about which so many futile speeches have been made, so many *drouthy* books written, and so many wearisome sermons preached.—*Daily Telegraph, November 10th, 1873.*

The writer seems to think 'drouthy' wholly synonymous with 'dry,' whereas it is but partially so. We may say a 'dry' book, or that a man is 'dry,' or 'thirsty,' but we cannot say a *thirsty* book.

**Drowse**, to slumber, or to be sleepy. 'The old man *drowzes* by the fire.' The word survives in the adjective *drowsy*, and the substantive *drowsiness*.

All their shape,  
 Spangled with eyes more numerous than those  
 Of Argus, and more wakeful than to *drowse*.—*Milton.*

There gentle sleep  
 First found me, and with soft oppression seized  
 My *drowsed* sense.—*Paradise Lost.*

**Drossel,** } a dirty girl or woman; a draggle-tailed slut.  
**Drazel,** }

**Drumly**, *a.*, from the Gaelic *trom*, heavy; whence *drumly* water, or water heavy with sand or earth. In the south-western shires of England *droum* signifies mud. In the north of England and in Scotland, this root is not found as a substantive, but the adjective *drumly*, meaning thick or muddy, is common both in literature and conversation.

— *drumly* German water,  
 To make himself look fair and fatter.—*Burns: The Two Dogs.*  
 Ye banks and braes and streams around  
 The Castle o' Montgomery;  
 Green be your woods and fair your flowers,  
 Your waters never *drumly*.—*Burns.*

This word is much wanted in English literature, and is far more poetical than either of its synonymes *turbid* or *muddy*. It is used with fine effect in the ballad of the 'Demon Lover,' communicated to Sir Walter Scott's 'Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border,' by his friend and amanuensis,

**Drumly**—*continued*.

William Laidlaw : The Demon's eye in his anger, no longer clear as before, grows dark :

They had na sailed a league, a league,  
A league, but barely three,  
When dismal grew his countenance,  
And *drumlie* grew his ee.

No other word in the language could so admirably convey the meaning. Allan Ramsay uses it with equal power and beauty in the following passage, descriptive of a time of plague :

When blue diseases fill the *drumly* air.

*Masque on the Nuptials of the Duke of Hamilton.*

Draw me some water out of this spring,

Madam, it is all foul, it is all *drumly*, black, muddy !

*French and English Grammar, 1623.*

Oh, boatman, haste, put off your boat !

Put off your boat for golden money,

I cross the *drumlie* stream to-night,

Or never more I meet my honey.

*Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border.*

I heard once a lady in Edinburgh objecting to a preacher that she did not understand him. Another lady, his great admirer, insinuated that probably he was too deep for her to follow. But her ready answer was, 'Na, na !—he's no just deep, but he's *drumly*.'—*Dean Ramsay*.

**Drumble**, to go about anything in a confused and awkward manner, as if not understanding or heeding what is to be done.

What, John ! Robert ! John ! So take up these clothes here quickly !  
Where's the cowl staff ? Look—how you *drumble* !

*Shakespeare : Merry Wives of Windsor.*

**Drunk-wort**, tobacco ; or the intoxicating herb.

**Drury**, gallantry, courtship ; from the Gaelic *druis*, lust ; *druisire*, a fornicator ; and *druth*, a harlot.

**Dub**, a puddle, a duck pond ; a dirty pool ; a common provincial word in England and Scotland.

The young men knew the country well,

So soon where he would be,

And they have ta'en another way,

Was nearer by miles three ;

They rudely ran with all their might,

Spared neither *dub* nor mire.

*Robin Hood and the Beggar. Gutch's Collection.*

Through dirt and *dub* for life I'll paddle.—*Burns : The Inventory.*



**Dudman**—*continued.*

Then he took out his little knife,  
Let a' his *duddies* fa'  
And he was the brawest gentlemen  
That stood among them a'.

And in 'Tam o' Shanter,' the witches in Alloway Kirk, in order to dance with the less restraint, cast off 'their *duddies* to the wark.'

**Dule**, } grief, sorrow, lamentation. This word, supposed by  
**Doole**, } a writer in Knight's 'Political Dictionary,' to be derived from the Greek *doulos*, a slave, but more probably from the Gaelic *dolas* or the French *deuil*, grief or mourning, has been to a great extent superseded by its synonyme *dole*, derived directly from the Latin; but is still current in this form in the English border counties and in Scotland: but 'dule' is worthy of revival, if it were only to avoid identity of orthography, with a word of totally different origin and meaning; meaning a lot, share, division, or portion. Chaucer writes the word 'dole,' but the Earl of Surrey in his translation of 'Virgil,' and Spenser in the 'Faerie Queene,' have *doole* and *dooleful*.

Time of thy *doole*, thy spouse now dead, I grant,  
None might thee move.—*Surrey.*

Now twenty days (by which the sons of men  
Divide their works) have past through heaven sheen,  
Since I was brought into this *dooleful* den.—*Spenser.*

In its forms of dulsome, dulesome, and dolesome, the word is current in most parts of England.

**Dumble**, very stupid.

**Dump**, to throw down a heavy weight. To unload, to shoot rubbish.

**Dumping-ground**, a place where rubbish may be shot or 'dumped.' This phrase is common in America.

**Dumps**, }  
**Dumpish**, } melancholy.

As one in doleful *dumps*.—*Battle of Chevy Chase.*

Mr. Fearing the pilgrim was *dumpish* at the House Beautiful.  
*Pilgrim's Progress.*

**Dunt**, a hard blow.

Let now stand *dunt* for *dunt*.—*Metrical Romance of Sir Otuel*.

I have a wife o' my ain ;

I'll take *dunts* frae naebody.—*Burns*.

Why draw the dagger when a *dunt* will do the business ?

*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs*.

**Dunt**, preterite of *dint*, to deal so strong a blow as to leave an impression on the thing struck, whence *dint* and *dunt*, a deep mark.

**Dwale**, the Deadly Nightshade ; a sleeping potion. In heraldry, a black colour.

For well I know by thy tale,

That thou hast dronken of the *dwale*.—*Gower : MS. Soc. Antig.*

' Arise ! ' quoth she, ' what have you drunken *dwale* ?

Why sleep you ? '—*Chaucer : The Court of Love*.

Needeth him no *dwale*,

This miller hath so wisely bibbed ale,

That as an horse he snorteth in his sleep.

*Chaucer : The Reeve's Tale*.

' He's in a *dwale*,' a dead sleep ; a common expression in the north of England.

**Dwine**, to pine, or waste away slowly ; from whence the diminutive, *dwindle*.

Dethe on me hath sette his mark,

As grass in meadows I dry and *dwine*.

*MS. Cantab., quoted by Halliwell*.

Thus *dwineth* he till he be dead,

In minding of his own estate.—*Gower : MS. Soc. Antig.*

All woxen was her body unveiled,

And dry and *dwined* all for eild.—*Chaucer : Romance of the Rose*.

Kindly he'd laugh when thus he saw me *dwine*,

And talk of happiness like a divine.

*Allan Ramsay : On the Death of Addison*.

Bacchus hates repining,

Venus loves nae *dwining*.—*The Toast, Allan Ramsay*.

In Kent a weakly child is called a *dwine* or a *dwindle*.

**Ear**, to plough, to cultivate, from the Sanscrit and Gaelic *ar* ;  
whence *Ear-eth*, the Earth, that which can be ploughed.

And never after *ear* so barren a land.

*Shakespeare: Dedication to Venus and Adonis.*

**Ear-fest**, harvest, the festival of gathering the crops.

**Earth-fast**, } firm in the earth, and difficult to be removed ; of  
**Yird-fast**, } the same derivation as steadfast, fast in stead, or  
place, and metaphorically, to a purpose. Thus a tree that  
rocks to and fro in the wind, is not so much steadfast, as  
earth-fast ; and a rock, or stone in the river, as in the fol-  
lowing example, is properly called *earth-fast* :—

About the middle o' Clyde water,

There was a *yird-fast* stane.

*Ballad of Burd Helen.*

The Scotch have also the phrase *bed-fast*, instead of the  
English *bed-ridden*.

**Earth-tilth**, agriculture.

**Eath**, }  
**Eith**, } easy.

When ease abounds it's *eath* to do amiss.

*Spenser: Faerie Queene.*

*Uneath* may she endure the flinty streets.

*Shakespeare: King Henry VI.*

The Miller sat *unethes* (uneasily) upon his horse.

*Chaucer: The Knight's Tale.*

Who thinks him most secure is *cathest* shamed.

*Fairfax: Tasso.*

A scald head is *eath* to bleed.

An unlucky man's cart is *eath* tumbled.

It's *eath* keeping a castle that's no besieged.

*Eath* earned, soon forgotten.

It's *eath* finding a stick to beat a dog.

*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

**Eerie**, gloomy, wearisome, full of fear.

In mirkest glen at midnight hour

I'd rove and ne'er be *eerie*, O ;

If through that glen I gaed to thee,

My ain kind dearie, O.—*Burns.*

It was an *eerie* walk through the still chestnut woods at that still hour  
of the night.—*T. A. Trollope: The Dream Numbers.*



**Eft**, again, quick, soon.

And in three days after,  
Edifie it *eft* anew.—*Piers Ploughman*.  
Yea marry that's the *eftest* way.

*Shakespeare: Much Ado about Nothing.*

**Eftsoons**, soon, presently, by-and-bye.

Hold off! Unhand me, grayhead loon,  
*Eftsoons* his hand dropped he.  
*Coleridge.*

**Egg**, to instigate, incite, provoke to action. It is now thought a vulgarism to say 'that a man was egged on to do anything;' but the word is pure Anglo-Saxon, from *eggian*, to excite, and of the same family as *eager*.

Through *egging* of his wife.

*Chaucer: The Merchant's Tale.*

Mother, quod she, and maiden bright Mariè,  
Sooth is it that through woman's *eggement*,

*Chaucer: The Man of Lawe's Tale.*

They that *egge* a consente to the sinne, bin partners of the sinne, and of the damnation of the sinner.

*Chaucer: The Parson's Tale.*

Whom ardour of inclination *eggs* forward and carrieth through every obstacle.—*Denham*.

Adam and Eve he *egged* to do ill.

*Piers Ploughman.*

**Eke**, *v.* to increase, augment, or add to.

**Eke**, *n.* an augmentation, an increase.

This word has gradually lost its original meaning. Spenser uses it in its ancient sense, when he says in the 'Shepherd's Calendar':

Then *ekes* his speed and faces it again.

But Shakespeare mostly uses it with the addition of the particle 'out,' to eke out, to lengthen, to protract, to make the most of existing materials, rather than to add anything to them. In its almost obsolete form of '*eke*,' also—

A train band captain *eke* was he—

its derivation from the Teutonic, *auch*, is apparent. The substantive an *eke* still exists in common parlance in Scotland: and signifies the last tumbler of whiskey toddy, made after all the guests have had sufficient; the parting cup, be-

**Eke**—*continued.*

fore retiring to rest. 'I hate intemperance,' said a worthy magistrate and distiller; 'what I like to see is the douce honest man, takin' his aucht (eight) tumblers and an *eke* every night, in the bosom of his family; but intemperance is my abomination.'

**Eld,** } old age. This word survives in poetical composition,  
**Eild,** } but is banished from the bar, the pulpit, and the senate.

Well you know,  
The superstitious, idle-headed *Eld*,  
Received and did deliver to our age,  
This tale of Herne the Hunter, for a truth.

*Shakespeare: Merry Wives of Windsor.*

Childless *eld*.—*Milton.*

Rule youth well,  
*Eild* will rule itself.

Better eat gray bread in youth than in *eild*.

We can tell your *eild* by the wrinkles (wrinkles) of your horn.

Youth and *eild* never sowder well (solder well) together.

*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

**Elden**, to grow old, to advance in years.

The good wife is *eldening*, poor body.—*Galt.*

**Eldfather**, grandfather, ancestor.

That after his good *eldfather* was called Robert.

*Barbour: quoted in Jamieson's Dictionary.*

Our king—Dawy by name—was *eldfather* to King William.

*Wyntoun.*

**Eldmother**, grandmother, ancestress.

**Eldritch**, haunted by evil spirits, unearthly, ghastly, horrible.

On the *eldrich* hill there grows a thorn.

*Sir Carline: Percy's Reliques.*

The witches follow,  
Wi' many an *eldritch* screech and hollow.

*Burns: Tam o' Shanter.*

I've heard my reverend grannie say,  
In lonely glens ye like to stray,  
Or where auld ruined castles gray

Nod to the moon,  
Ye fright the nightly wand'rer's way

Wi' *eldritch* croon.

*Burns: Address to the Deil.*

**Elf**, to twist and entangle the hair.

It was supposed to be a spiteful amusement of Queen Mab and her subjects [the Elves] to twist the hair of human creatures, or tie the manes and tails of horses into hard knots, which it was not fortunate to untangle.—*Nares*.

My face I'll grime with filth,  
Blanket my loins, *elf* all my hair in knots.

*Shakespeare: King Lear.*

**Elf-locks**, tangled hair.

This is that very Mab,  
That plats the manes of horses in the night,  
And cakes the *elf-locks* in foul sluttish hairs.

*Shakespeare: Romeo and Juliet.*

**Elmen**, made of elm; as an 'elmen coffin,' an 'elmen grove.'

**Embrangle**, to perplex.

**Embrangement**, perplexity.

**Evenhood**, equality.

**Eme**, } from the German *Oheim*, an uncle.  
**Yeme**, }

Think on thine *eme*, King Arthur,  
Knight that is of most valour.

*Metrical Romance of Merlin*, part ii.

In good faith, *Eme*, quoth she, that liketh me.

*Chaucer: Troilus and Cressida.*

While they were young, Cassibelan their *eme*,  
Was by the people chosen in their stead.

*Spenser: Faerie Queene.*

Many aunts, many *eems*,  
Many kin, few friends.

*Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

**Edayne**, }  
**Etyn**, } a giant.  
**Eyttyn**, }

'The most common word for a giant in the Eddas,' says Mr. G. W. Dasent, in the Introduction to his 'Norse Tales,' (London, 1859), 'was Jotunn,' (Anglo-Saxon, Eoten,) 'which strange to say, survives in the Scotch *etin*.' But *etin* is not Scotch only, but ancient English.

**Etagne**—*continued.*

Fy ! he said, thou foule ! thou *Etagne* !  
Alle my knightes thou gart be slaine.

*MS. Lincoln, quoted by Halliwell.*

An *Etyn* in a fight.—*Sir Tristram.*

They say the King of Portugal cannot sit at his meat, but the giants and *Etyns* will come and snatch it from him.

*Beaumont and Fletcher : Burning Pestle.*

In 'Hynde Etyn ; or the Gentle Giant,' in Kinloch's 'Ancient Scottish Ballads,' May Margaret goes to the Mulberry Woods, and has an adventure.

She had na pu'd a nut, a nut,  
A nut but barely ane ;  
When up started the Hynde *Etyn*,  
Says, 'lady, let these alane.'

The *Etyn* threatens her life, but afterwards marries her, and carries her away, and some years afterwards when hunting with his eldest son, the latter asks why his mother's cheeks are so often wet, and so seldom dry ; and the *Etyn* replies :

Na wonder, na wonder, my eldest son,  
That she should brast and die ;  
For your mother was an earl's daughter,  
Of noble birth and fame,  
And now she's wife o' Hynde *Etyn*,  
Wha' ne'er got Christen name.

**Ettle**, to try, to attempt, to endeavour ; to fence.

I looked the traitor in the face,  
Drew out my brand and *ettled* at him.

*Lochmaben Gate, Jacobite-Ballad.*

**Everly**, constantly, continually.

**Evil-will**, malevolence.

**Evil-willing**, malevolent.

**Eyrie**, an eagle's nest—from the Gaelic *airigh*, to rise.

The eagle and the stork  
On cliffs and cedar tops their *eyries* build.—*Milton.*  
'Tis the fire-shower of ruin all dreadfully driven  
From his *eyrie* that beacons the darkness of heaven.

*Campbell : Lochiel's Warning.*

**Faa,** } a gipsy. Faa, Fa, or Fae, supposed to be derived from  
**Fae,** } Fata (Fate), but more probably from the Gaelic *faidh*  
 (a prophet or fortune-teller), was long the patronymic of the  
 Gipsy chiefs in England, calling themselves, or called by  
 others, Kings of the Gipsies. 'Johnnie Faa, or the Gipsy  
 Laddie,' is the title of a well-known ballad which describes  
 the elopement of a Countess of Cassilis, with the Gipsy  
 King. In the reign of James I., of Scotland, there came  
 one Faa or Fae, a gipsy, into his dominions, who called him-  
 self Duke of Italy, and is supposed to be the hero of the  
 adventure.

**Fae-gang,** a gang of gipsies.

**Fadge;** to fit, to suit, to be agreeable to.

If this *fadge* not.—*Shakespeare: Love's Labour's Lost.*

This word is still in common use, and finds a place in the  
 'Slang Dictionary,' where it ought not to be.

**Faith-fast,** true to one's faith or pledge.

**Fall,** autumn. This word is not only common, but almost  
 universal in America; and ought to be re-adopted in Eng-  
 land. The names of the other three seasons are pure Saxon;  
 and either 'Fall,' the fall of the leaf, or 'Harvest,' a word  
 much used by the English peasantry, should be admitted to  
 synonymity with the foreign word, which has taken too  
 strong a hold of the language to be entirely superseded.

A honey tongue, a heart of gall  
 Is Fancy's Spring, but Sorrow's *Fall*.—*Sir W. Raleigh.*

What crowds of patients the town doctor kills,  
 Or how last *Fall*, he raised the weekly bills.—*Dryden.*

**Fang,** } to seize, to lay hold of. Most people remember the  
**Fong,** } old law phrase, 'infang thief and outfang thief,' the  
**Fung,** } one signifying a thief taken within the jurisdiction of a  
 feudal lord, and the other a thief taken without his jurisdic-  
 tion. This is the only remnant of this verb that has come  
 down to our time except the substantive *fang*, the large tooth  
 of a beast of prey or of a serpent; the diminutive *fangle*, to  
 take hold of a new fancy or fashion; and the common phrase  
*new-fangled*:

I nold *fang* a farthing (I would not take a farthing).

*Vision of Piers Ploughman.*

He *fong* his foeman by the flank,

And flang him on the floor.—*Buchan's Northern Ballads.*

**Fangle**, a toy, trifle, or other article, laid hold of by the fashion, whence new-*fangled*, or newly fashioned, or laid hold of.

The synne God hateth that on him hangeth,  
And Goddes hatred hell it *fangeth*.

*MS. Harleian, quoted by Halliwell.*

What fairies haunt this ground? A Book? Oh, rare one!  
Be not as is our *fangled* world, a garment,  
Nobler than that it covers.—*Shakespeare: Cymbeline.*

**Fare**, } to travel. This verb is not wholly obsolete, though its  
**Foor**, } preterite is lost. It has come to signify to eat and drink  
**Fore**, } as well as to travel, and also that which is eaten or  
**Fure**, } drunk. It is doubtful whether our beautiful word  
**Fared**, } 'farewell' means 'may you travel well through life,'  
or 'may you be well treated by the world.' A way-*faring*  
man is still a common expression. The preterite occurs  
several times in the 'Vision of Piers Ploughman.'

Alexander fell into a fever therewith, so that he *fure* wondrous ille.

*MS. Lincoln, quoted in Halliwell.*

Her errand led her through the glen to *fare*.—*Ross's Helenore.*

As o'er the moor they lightly *foor*,  
A burn was clear, a glen was green—  
Up the banks they eased their shanks.—*Burns.*

**Farrand**, from fare, to journey, to travel. *Ald* or *auld far-rand*, in Scottish and Border dialect signifies wise, sagacious, applied to one who travels in the old ruts of experience, or who stands in the ancient ways. The Scotch say of a very wary man that 'he's owre *auld farran*' to be fleyed wie bogles: i.e., too knowing to be frightened by ghosts.

In Robert de Brunne's 'Chronicles of England,' written in the fourteenth century, we find the phrase, 'well *farrand*;' in the sense of suitable or becoming, applied to the dress of Rowena, on her first interview with Vortigern:

Before the king in hall she went,  
A cup with wine she had in hand,  
And her attire was *well-farrand*.

Ill-farrand, means unsuitable, or out of fashion, and *far-rantly*, signifies orderly, neat, comely, respectable.

**Farrand**—*continued*.

In Northamptonshire, according to Sternberg's 'Glossary,' 'a farrantly body,' means a respectable man. The word when applied to animals, means, that they are strong, and shapely, and fit for labour.

**Farthel**, the fourth part of anything. Mr. Halliwell has 'farrel, the *fourth part* of a circular oat cake, the division being made by a cross.' From the same root comes farthing; the fourth part of a penny.

**Fastles,** } fastenings.  
**Fassels,** }

**Feather-heeled**, nimble, agile, sprightly; (apparently derived from the statue of Mercury, with feathers or wings at his heels).

**Featly**, dexterous.

**Feck,** } power, activity.  
**Feckful,** } powerful.  
**Feckless,** } powerless.

Worcester in his Dictionary, makes no mention of 'feck,' a common word in Yorkshire, the Border Counties, and Scotland, for power and activity, but inserts the adjective *feckless*, which he erroneously supposes to be a corruption of 'effectless.'

For as we see a mischief grow  
Oft of a *feckless* thing.—*Montgomery: The Cherry and the Sloe.*  
They are mair faschious nor of *feck*.—*Cherry and Sloe.*  
Mony a *feckful* chiel that day was slain.—*Wallace.*  
Breathless and *feckless* there she sits her down.—*Ross's Helenore.*  
*Feckless* fouk are aye fain of ane another.

*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

**Felth**, the power of feeling in the fingers. Thus 'a blind man has greater *felth* than one who can see.' 'The tailor's finger would lose its *felth* but for his thimble.'

**Fend**, to strive, to struggle, to fight for.

God bless him that *fends* for his living,  
And holds up his head through it a'.

*Waugh's Lancashire Songs.*

**Fettle**, to arrange, mend, prepare, put in order. This word is common throughout the northern English and Scottish Border counties. Its derivation from *feat*, a deed, job, performance, or arrangement, seems to have escaped notice.

'I'll fettle it,' a common expression in Lancashire, meaning 'I will make a good job, or *feat* of it.

We'll *fettle* up ourselves.—*Cumberland Ballads*.

'*Fettled* ale,' ale warmed, spiced, and sugared.

'The dinner's ill-*fettled*;' i.e., badly cooked or prepared ;  
'*Fettle* the horse and cart,' &c.

When the sheriff saw little John bend his bow,  
He *fettled* him to be gone.—*Percy's Reliques*.

Thank me no thanking, nor proud me no proud,  
But *fettle* your five joints 'gainst Thursday next,  
To go into Paris and Saint Peter's Church,  
Or I will drag thee on a hurdle thither.

*Shakespeare: Romeo and Juliet.*

When your master is most busy in company, come in and pretend to *fettle* about the room.—*Swift*.

**Ferlie**, *v.*, to wonder, and when used as an adjective, wonderful, strange, or curious.

**Ferlie**, *n.*, a wonder, a miracle.

A *ferlie* strife then fell between,  
As they went by the way.—*MS. Trin. Col. Cam.*

On Malvern Hills,  
Me befel a *ferly*.—*Piers Ploughman*.

Poor Fay ! he said a *ferlie* case,  
Either I am of wine drunk,  
Either the firmament is sunk,  
Either woxen is the ground.

*Metrical Romance of the Seven Wise Masters.*

The wheel was *ferly* rich and round,  
In world was never none half so high.—*Morte Arthur*.

Alein the clerk that herd this melodie,  
He poketh John, and sayeth 'Slepest thou,  
Herdest thou ever slike a song ere now ?'  
\* \* \* \* \*

Who harkned ever slike a *ferly* thing ?

*Chaucer: The Pere's Tale.*



**Ferlie**—*continued.*

Light down, light down, now True Thomas,  
And lean your head upon my knee,  
Abide and rest a little space,  
And I will show you *ferlies* three.—*Thomas of Ercildoune.*  
Never make your friends *ferly* at you.

The longer we live the more *ferlies* we see.  
*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

**Ferne**, afar.

**Ferne-ago**, very long ago.

**Fey**, bewitched, fated to die, in the power of the fates,  
doomed. (*See Faa.*)

'We'll turn again,' said good Lord John,  
'But no,' said Rothiemay,  
My steed's trapann'd, my bridle's broke,  
I fear this day I'm *fey*.—*Ballad of the Fire of Frendraught.*

The Romaynes for sadness ruschte to the erthe,  
\* \* \* as they *fey* were.  
*Morte Arthur : MS. Lincoln, quoted by Halliwell.*

Let the fate fall upon the *feyest*.

There is *fey* blood in your veins.

Take care of the man that God has marked, for he's no *fey*,  
*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

**Fibster**, a teller of petty lies.

**Fire-flaught**, sudden sparks of fire.

The *fire-flaughts* darting from his e'e.  
*Richard Gall to Hector McNeill.*

**Fire-finger**, an incendiary.

**Flanch**, a projection in a building.

**Flang**, preterite of fling; very unnecessarily superseded by  
'flung.'

**Flath**, filth, dirt, ordure : (*Halliwell*).

The rhymes to 'wrath,' and 'path,' are few, and this  
might be admitted to increase the number.

**Flathers**, rubbish.

**Flaunts**, finery, gew-gaws, ribbons.

**Flaucht**, a flash of lightning.

The thunder crack'd and *flaughts* did rift,  
Frae the black vizzard of the lift,—*Allan Ramsay : The Vision.*

**Flaun**, a pancake.

With green cheese, clouted cream, with *flauns* and custards stor'd.  
*Drayton.*

**Fleck**, to spot.

*Flecked* darkness.—*Shakespeare: Romeo and Juliet.*

We'll *fleck* our white steeds in your christian blood.  
*Four Apprentices.*

**Fleer**, to mock, to flirt, to sneer, to grin.

And mark the *fleers*, the gibes, and notable scorns.  
*Shakespeare.*

Democritus, thou ancient *fleerer*,  
 How I miss thy laugh.—*Beaumont and Fletcher.*

**Fleme**, a brook, a small river.

The *fleme* Jordan.—*MS. Cantab., quoted by Halliwell.*

**Fleme**, to banish.

Right forth thy Lord will thee reprove,  
 And *fleme* thee far out of his sight.  
*Ritson's Ancient Songs, vol. i., p. 78.*

Now help thou meek and blissful faire maid,  
 Me *flemed* wretch in this desert of galle.  
*Chaucer: The Second Nun's Tale.*

*Flemer* of fiends, (Banisher of demons).  
*The Man of Lawe's Tale.*

**Fley**, to frighten, or alarm one person, or animal; as distinguished from 'scare,' to frighten a multitude; though sometimes used in the same sense as 'scare.'

**Flinders**, fragments, small pieces, splinters.

The moon was clear, the day drew near,  
 The spears in *flinders* flew,  
 And many a gallant Englishman,  
 Ere day, the Scotsmen slew.  
*The Battle of Otterbourne.*

**Flirt**, to move rapidly about from place to place, like a bee or a butterfly, from flower to flower, whence, metaphorically, a 'flirt,' a girl who wanders from admirer to admirer, or lover to lover, and cares for none.

**Flit**, to remove from one dwelling-place to another. From this source come flitter and flutter, applied to small creatures or objects that move rapidly.

So sore it sticked when I was hit,  
That by no craft I might it *flit*.

*Chaucer: Romance of the Rose.*

Better rue sit, than rue *flit*; (i.e., better remain uncomfortable in an old house than become still more uncomfortable in a new one).

*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

Two *flittings* are as bad as a fire.

*Northumbrian Proverb.*

**Flite**, to scold.

**Flitter**, to fly like a fledgling.

**Flittermouse**, } a bat.  
**Fluttermouse**, }

The bat has been called the winged, or flittering mouse; and the owl, its enemy, the winged cat.

**Flosh**, to spill, to splash.

**Flothery**, showy, but vulgar; overdressed, and in ill-taste.—  
*Halliwel.*

**Flouren**, } made of flour; *flouren* cakes, *flouren* bread; in the  
**Fluren**, } same meaning as *wheaten* bread, or *oaten* cakes.

**Flunkey**, a servant in livery; metaphorically applied to a person who abjectly flatters the great.—The word was unknown to literature until the time of Burns. Thackeray and Mr. Carlyle in our own day have made it classical English, although the most recent lexicographers have not admitted it or its derivative, *flunkeyism*, servility, to the honours of the dictionary.

Our laird gets in his racked rents,

\* \* \* \*

He rises when he likes himself,  
His *flunkeys* answer to his bell.

*Burns: The Two Dogs.*

**Flurch**, a great abundance; 'there is a *flurch* of strawberries this year.' '*Flush* of money,' seems to be a corruption of a '*flurch* of money.'

**Flurn**, to think little of, to disparage, used in a sense somewhat less invidious than scorn or sneer. The word occurs in the preface to Fletcher's 'Poems,' as quoted by Nares, wherein he says of some of his earlier compositions, 'The abortive birth slipped from my brain, which can carry neither worth nor weight in this pregnant age, so fraught and furnished with a variety of gallant pieces and performances of the choicest of writers ; give me leave to *flurn* at them, as the poor excrescences of nature,' &c. Neither the two great English lexicographers, Johnson and Richardson, nor the two great Americans, Webster and Worcester, seem to have been cognizant of the word. Halliwell cites it as a Lincolnshire word, meaning to *sneer* at, or despise.

**Fluttersome**, quick, agile, restless.

**Fogie**, a dull, slow, old man, unable or unwilling to reconcile himself to the ideas and manners of the new generation.—The derivation of this word, which Thackeray did much to popularise in England, is uncertain, though it seems probable that it comes from 'foggy,' for a foggy, misty, hazy intellect, unable to see the things that are obvious to clearer minds. In the United States the word is generally applied to ultra-Conservatives in politics. In Gaelic *fogair* signifies an exile ; one who has been long absent from his country, and consequently unacquainted, on his return, with the newest fashions and modes of thought. In the same language *fograch* is an outcast or vagabond.

Ay, though we be  
Old *fogies* three,  
We're not so dulled as not to dine ;  
And not so old  
As to be cold  
To wit, to beauty, and to wine.  
*All the Year Round.*

**Foison**, abundance.

With loaves five and fishes two to feed,  
God sent his *foison* at the greatest need.  
*Chaucer: The Man of Lawe's Tale.*

As blossoming time,  
That for the seedness the bare fallow brings,  
To teeming *foison*.—*Shakespeare: Measure for Measure.*

All *foison* all abundance,  
To feed my innocent people.—*Shakespeare: The Tempest.*

**Foison**—*continued*.

Earth's increase and *foison* plenty,  
Barns and garners never empty.

*The Blessing of Juno and Ceres, The Tempest.*

In Suffolk, says Mr. Halliwell, the word means, 'the natural juice or moisture of grass or other herbs; the heart and strength of it.'

**Fond,** } to tempt, whence, probably, the adjective *fond*,  
**Fonden,** } tempting to enjoyment.

And then *fondeth* the fiend.—*Piers Ploughman*.

And *fondede* me to mete him.—*Idem*.

**Fool-happy,** } imbecile, } so great and hopeless as to  
**Fool-happiness,** } imbecility } be utterly unconscious of  
sorrow or pain.

**Foot-lock**, now corrupted into *fet-lock*, the lock of hair behind the pastern joint of a horse's foot.

**For**. This syllable as a prefix to a verb, in the same manner as *ver*, in German, serves as an augmentative, or strengthening of the meaning. In some instances, such as *forbear*, *forbid*, *forget*, *forgive*, and *forsake*, it gives the original verb an entirely new signification. The ancient preterite, lorn or or lost, with the prefix *for* becomes forlorn, or utterly and entirely lost; as in the following stanza from the ballad of 'Lady Maisry':

Ye maun gie up your English lord,  
When your young babe is born.  
For gin ye keep him an hour longer,  
Your life shall be *forlorn* :

that is, not that you shall live a forlorn life, but that your life shall be utterly lost.

**Foranent**, right opposite to.

**Forbears**, ancestors.

**Forechosen**, predestined.

**Fordeme**, from 'deme,' to judge; to judge beforehand; and without evidence.

**Fordo**, to ruin, to destroy; to exhaust.

This is the night,  
That either makes me or *fordo*es me quite.  
*Shakespeare: Othello.*

**Fordo**—*continued.*

Wilt thou not go further to see where thou hast left  
Thy father Anchisis, *fordone* with age?

*Earl of Surrey.*

Now the hungry lion roars,  
And the wolf behowls the moon,  
While the heavy ploughman snores,  
All with weary task *fordone*.

*Shakespeare: Midsummer Night's Dream.*

**Fordrunken**, dead drunk.

The miller that *fordrunken* was.

*Chaucer: The Knight's Tale.*

**Forfend**, to prohibit, forbid, ward off.

**Fore-elders**, ancestors.

**Forefighter**, a champion. This is almost the only word applicable to battles, hosts, armies, and the military life and profession which remained in the Saxon-English language for any length of time after the Norman conquest. Even the words 'war' and 'peace' are from the Norman French, and rapidly superseded the original *Krieg* and *Friede*. The words soldier, corporal, sergeant, lieutenant, captain, major, colonel, general, are all from the Norman-French, and have utterly dispossessed the ancient names. *Here*, an army, was current as late only as the fourteenth century.

**Forewent**, preterite of forego, to renounce.

Writers and speakers still say, 'I forego the pleasure or the advantage;' but will use a roundabout form of expression rather than say, 'I *forewent* the pleasure,' &c. And why? Forewent is as good a word as forego, and should not be allowed to perish.

**Forewit**, anticipation. ;

**Forfoughten**, worn out in the struggle of life, exhausted in battle.

**Forgab**, to mock.

For who so *forgabbed* a frere,  
Yf founden at his stews.—*Piers Ploughman.*

**Forgather**, to meet, to encounter.

I there wi' something did *forgather*.—*Burns.*

**Forgrown**, covered and overgrown with vegetation.

The path  
*Forgrown* was with grass and weed.—*Chaucer.*

**Forshrunken**, utterly shrunk up.

**Forspent**, wearied, worn out.

**Fortrodden**, utterly trodden down.

Virtue is not only without meedes, but it is cast downe and eke  
*fortrodden* under the feet.—*Chaucer*.

**Forswat**, worn with the sweat of extreme toil.

**Forswink**, overtoil, to wear one self out with hard labour.

**Forswunk**, utterly worn out with *swink*, or hard labour.

She is my goddess plain,  
And I her shepherd swain.

Albeit *forswunk* and *forswat* I am.—*Spenser: Shepherd's Calendar*.

**Forthright**, straightforward, in the right direction; a straight path.

Through *forthright* and meanders.

*Shakespeare: Tempest*.

If you give way,

Or hedge aside from the direct *forlwright*.

*Shakespeare: Troilus and Cressida*.

**Forwandred**, utterly lost, and strayed out of the way.

**Forwasted**, utterly wasted.

*Forwasted* all their land.—*Spenser: Faerie Queene*.

**Forwearied**, tired out.

Some of his diet do from him withdraw,  
For I find him to be too proudly fed,  
Give him more labor and with straiter law,  
That he with work may be *forwearied*.

*Spenser: Faerie Queene*.

Your king, whom labored spirits  
*Forwearied* in the action of swift speed,  
Craves harborage within your city walls.

*Shakespeare: King John*.

**Foreword**, a preface, or introduction to a book.

The translator wishes to say that he has felt no hesitation in placing  
the *foreword* to the Edda also, with the afterword to Gylfi's Mocking.  
—*Preface to the Younger Edda, translated by G. W. Dasent, Stockholm,*  
1842.

**Forworn**, worn out.

**Foulsome**, from foul, unclean; corrupted into fulsome, disgusting.

**Fouth**, from full, and full-eth, plenty.

I took a *fouth*  
Of sweetest kisses from her glowing mouth.  
*Allan Ramsay; The Gentle Shepherd.*

Let *fouth* of tears dreep like May dew.  
*Allan Ramsay: Elegy on Maggy Johnston.*

He had a *fouth* o' auld knick knackits,  
Rusty iron caps and jingling jackets.  
*Burns: Elegy on Captain Grose.*

**Foust**, stale dirt, whence *fusty*.

**Franch**, to crunch with the teeth.

**Fratch**, to quarrel.

**Fratchy**, quarrelsome.

And aye cracked his thumb for a bit of *fratch*.  
*Anderson's Cumberland Ballads.*

O, Donald, ye are just the man,  
Who when he gets a wife,  
Begins to *fratch*.—*Miss Blamire: Cumberland Songs.*

**Frayne**, to ask, inquire.

Then I *frayned* at Faith.—*Piers Ploughman.*  
And *frayned* full often of folke that I met.—*Idem.*

**Fret**, to devour, or eat, from the German *fressen*. 'A moth *fretting* a garment,' means, a moth eating a garment; and *fretted* with care, is consumed or eaten with care.

Like as it were a moth *fretting* a garment.—*Psalms xxxix.*

**Freet**, preterite of *fret*, to eat.

Adam *freet* of that fruit,  
And forsook  
The love of our Lord.—*Piers Ploughman.*

**Fretten**, past participle of *fret*, eat:

He has *fretten* of folk mo' than five hundred.  
*Morte Arthur, quoted by Halliwell.*

**Freet**, a proverb.

He was the youngest of seven successive sons, a circumstance of which he used jocularly to boast, as conferring on him, according to the old *freet*, supernatural powers of some sort or other.—*Whistle Binkie.*



**Fremd,** } strange, unacquainted, unrelated, opposed to *sib*, of  
**Fremit,** } kin.

The commandment forbids us to synne with any womane, sybbe, or  
*fremde*, wedde, or unwedde.—*MS. Lincoln, quoted by Halliwell.*

Make friends of *fremit* folk ; (i.e., not of your kinspeople and relatives).

Better my friend think me *fremit* than fashious (quarrelsome).

*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

**Frim,** vigorous, healthy, thriving ; as 'a *frim* tree,' a '*frim*  
 lass.'

**Frike,** fresh, liberal, hearty.

**Frith,** } a free place in the forest, land not enclosed.  
**Firth,** }

In the chill winter cauld,  
 Quhen frostes dois owr flete baith *firth* and fauld.

*Gawin Douglas : Translation of Virgil.*

He'll hang thy merry men, pair by pair,

In any *frith* where he may them find.—*Border Minstrelsy.*

**Frostling,** any fruit, flower, or leaf, injured by the frost. :

**Frory,** frosty.

**Frounce,** a wrinkle ; from the French *froncer le sourcil*, to  
 frown ; whence also 'frown,' to *wrinkle* the brow ; but  
 formerly employed in the more extended sense of to twist, to  
 curl.

With she that *frounceth* up the brow  
 This covenant I will allow.—*Gower.*

Some *frounce* their curled hair in courtly guise.—*Spenser.*

Dressing, braiding, *frouncing*, flowering.—*Drayton.*

Not tricked and *frounced* as she was wont

With the Attic boy to hunt.—*Milton : Il Penseroso.*

**Frush,** to bruise, disturb.

Stand ! stand, thou Greek ! thou art a goodly mark !  
 No ! wilt thou not ? I like thy armour well,  
 I'll *frush* it and unlock the rivets all.

*Shakespeare : Troilus and Cressida.*

Hector assailed Achilles and gave him so many strokes that he all to  
*frusht* and brake his helm.—*Caxton : Destruction of Troy.*

High cedars are *frushed* with tempests.—*Hinde : 1606.*

**Frush**—*continued.*

Horrible uproar and *frush* of rocks that meet in battle.

*Southey.*

**Fud**, a tail, still applied to the tail of a hair or rabbit.

We'll whack their hydes and fyle their *fuds*.

*Jacobite Ballads: The Auld Stuarts Back Again.*

**Fusionless**, pithless, silly, sapless, senseless; corrupted from *foison*, the old English word for plenty:

For seven lang years I hae lain by his side,

And he's but a *fusionless* carlie, O!

*Burns: The Deuk's dang o'er my Daddie.*

The mouths of fasting multitudes are crammed wi' *fizenless* bran, instead of the sweet word in season.—*Scott: Old Mortality.*

**Gab**, the mouth; whence, to gossip, to talk idly, or loudly, to prate.

'*Gabbe*' and '*gabbing*,' appear in the late Herbert Coleridge's 'Dictionary of the Oldest Words in the English Language.' In Gaelic, according to MacIntyre's 'Dictionary,' '*gabb*' signifies 'a mouth which is never at rest;' whence, *gabbach*, garrulous. '*Gap*,' an opening, and '*gape*,' to yawn, are from the same root.

*The gift of the gab*—i.e., the gift of oratory, elocution, or speech-making—is a common expression in England and America. A wealthy citizen, of Philadelphia, was asked to subscribe to a fund for the endowment of a chair of Elocution, in his native state; but indignantly refused. 'I hold,' said he, 'the pernicious "*gift of the gab*" to be the curse of the Republic, and decline to contribute a red cent to its extension.'

Ne though I say't,

I am not lefe to *gabbe*.—*Chaucer: The Miller's Tale.*

And certes in the same boke I rede,

Right in the next chapitre after this,

I *gabbe* not, so have I joy and bliss.

*Chaucer: The Nounes Preeste's Tale.*

He is a japer and a *gabber*.—*Chaucer: The Parson's Tale.*

**Gaed**, the ancient preterite of go ; the modern preterite 'went,' being derived from wend, to turn. 'He wends on his way,' i.e., he turns on his way. From this lost preterite proceeds, probably, the common expression, 'to *gad*,' or to '*gad* about.'

I *gaed* a waefu' gate yestreen.—*Burns*.

**Gainage**, profit.

I trow the *gainage* of the ground.—*Piers Ploughman*.

**Gainbite**, biting back again ; i.e., remorse. This word is still current in some parts of England ; the original form was *ayerbyte*, or again bite. Mr. Halliwell quotes in his 'Archaic Dictionary,' the '*Ayerbyte* of Inwit,' or 'Remorse of Conscience.'

**Gainly**, shapely, elegant, whence ungainly (still used).

**Gainstrive**, to strive against, to contend.

**Gainstrife**, contention.

**Gainstand**, to stand against, to resist, to withstand.

In all this realm, o'er all this land,  
Is none so wight dare him *gainstand*,  
So wisely can Sir Penny work.

*Sir Penny : Lord Haile's version, Hyndford MSS.*

**Gale**, *n.*, a voice, a sound, a cry.

**Gale**, *v.*, to sound, to sing ; Gaelic *gal*, to weep, to moan, to lament.

And when he heard the Frere *gale*.

*Chaucer : The Wife of Bath's Prologue.*

Gan he crie and *gale*,

My lippis open, Lord of Love, I crie.

*Chaucer : The Court of Love.*

Then *galed* the gowk ; i.e., then sang the cuckoo.

*Morte Arthur.*

Bearing this origin of the word in mind, we find that *nightingale* means the song of the night ; and *madrigal*, the voice, or song of the mother. On the same principle of derivation, a loud sounding wind becomes a *gale*, or singing wind.

**Gall**, a sore place ; the rose-gall, the excrescence on the leaf of the rose when pricked and injured by an insect.

**Gall**, to fret, make sore, or excoriate.

Let the *galled* jade wince.—*Shakespeare*.

**Gallow**, to frighten.

The wrathful skies,  
Gallow the very wanderers of the dark,  
And make them keep their caves.

*Shakespeare: King Lear.*

**Gant**, merry, frolicsome.

**Ganty**, lusty, hearty, in good health.

**Gar**, to cause a thing to be done, to force or compel a person to do anything; the quasi-synonyme of which is 'make.' He *gars* me do it: i.e., he makes or compels me to do it; but as 'make' is required in another sense, that of construct or build, or shape, and as cause or compel are not only Latinisms, but express a different shade of meaning, the word 'gar,' no longer allowed in English, is a clear loss to the language. A Scottish lady, when asked to partake of a glass of whisky toddy, and not liking either to refuse or consent too readily, at last replied, 'Weel! mak it sweet and hot and strong, and *gar* me tak it;' a much racier and more forcible expression than if she had said, '*make* me, or *compel* me to take it.'

Then was folk fain and fed hunger with the best,  
With good ale, as glutton taught, and *gar* hunger sleep.

*Piers Ploughman.*

But specially I pray thee, hoste dere,  
*Gar* us have mete and drinke, and make us chere.

*Chaucer: The Reve's Tale.*

In Scottish literature the word is of constant occurrence.

Bid her do weel to my young son,  
And give him nurses three,  
For gin he live to be a man,  
King James will *gar* him die.

*Buchan's Ancient Ballads.*

*Gar* saddle me my bonnie black,  
*Gar* saddle soon and mak' him ready,  
And I will down the Gate Hope slack,  
And a' to see my bonnie leddy.

*Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border.*

And the first kirk that ye come to,  
Ye's *gar* the mass be sung,  
And the nearest kirk that ye come to,  
Ye's *gar* the bells be rung.

*The Gay Goss Hawk.*

**Gar**—*continued*.

One man may lead a horse to the water, but four-and-twenty canna gar him drink.—*North Country Proverb*.

**Gart**, preterite of gar, to make.

The boy was clad in robes of green,  
Sweet as the infant spring,  
And like the mavis on the bush,  
He *gart* the vallies ring.

*Percy's Reliques: Gil Morice.*

**Gavel**, a sheaf of corn before it is tied up.

**Gear**, in the North of England and Scotland, signifies money; wealth, property, belongings, possessions. The word is used by Chaucer and Spenser, in the sense of furniture, accoutrement, and apparel.

Arrayed herself in her most gorgeous *gear*.

*Spenser.*

Some harmless villager,  
Whom thrift keeps up about his country's *gear*.

*Milton.*

Little said is soon mended,  
Little *gear* is soon spendid.

*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

**Geason**, scarce, rare.

Hard to obtain, once gotten, not *geason*,  
Jewel of jeopardy, that peril doth assail.

*Earl of Surrey: The Frailty and Hurtfulness of Beauty.*

Let not thy tongue speak thy will,  
Laughing and speech in the mouth be *geason*.

*MS. Cantab. (Halliwell).*

**Geck**, scorn, derision; a person scorned; also to scorn, to mock, to deride.

Gude man, Gramercy, for your *geck*,  
Quod Hope, and lowly louts,  
Gif we were sent for, we suspect,  
Because the doctor doubts.

*The Cherry and the Sloe, Montgomery, 1590.*

And made the most notorious *geck* and gull,  
That e'er invention played on.

*Shakespeare: Twelfth Night.*

Why did you suffer Iachimo,

\* \* \* \*

To become the *geck* and scorn,  
Of the whole village?

*Shakespeare: Cymbeline.*

**Geck**—*continued*.

Bauldy that drives the car,  
But *gecks* at me and says I smell of tar.  
*Allan Ramsay: The Gentle Shepherd.*

You *geck* at me because I'm poor.  
*Burns: O Tibbie, I hae seen the day.*

**Get,** } to attain, to procure, to come into possession of.—  
**Got,** } The past participle of this verb has lately become  
**Gotten,** } obsolete, except in the talk of the uneducated and  
in Scottish literature. It was common in the last century.

We knew we were *gotten* far enough out of their reach.—*Defoe: Robinson Crusoe.*

Ken ye what Meg o' the mill has *gotten*?  
She's *gotten* a lout wi' a lump o' siller,  
And broken the heart of the barley miller.  
*Burns.*

There is also a marked tendency to the disuse of this inflection in the verb 'to forget,' and people too commonly say and write, 'I have "forgot,"' instead of 'forgotten.'

**Gey**, very; probably from *gay*: sometimes used with the additional syllable *an*, as in the phrase, he was *gey an' fou*! he was *gay* and drunk—or very drunk.

A miller laughing at him [the fool of the parish] for his witlessness, the fool said, 'There are some things I ken, and some things I dinna ken.' On being asked what he knew, he said, 'I ken a miller has aye a *gey* fat sow.' 'And what do ye no ken?' said the miller. 'I dinna ken at wha's expense she's fed.'—*Dean Ramsay.*

**Gilver**, to ache, to throb; a word current in the Eastern Counties.

**Gird**, a bitter jest or sarcasm, also used as a verb.

Mr. Halliwell defines it to mean, 'to strike with a weapon, to push,' and thence, metaphorically, to deal sarcastic thrusts.

I thank thee for that *gird*, good Tranio.  
*Shakespeare: Taming of the Shrew.*

He is still *girding* at the age's vanity.  
*Earl's Microcosmographic.*

The poet took notice of this *gird* as is surmised.  
*Shakespeare's Sonnets, by Gerald Massey, 1866.*

**Girdlestead**, the waist, or place of the girdle.—*Chaucer.*

**Girn**, to laugh with rage ; as distinguished from 'grin,' to laugh with merriment.

The Deil sits *girling* in the neuk,  
Riving sticks to roast the Duke.

*Highland Laddie, Jacobite Ballad.*

**Gith**, the corn-cockle.

**Glamour**, } fascination by the power of the eye, or of  
**Glamourie**, } enchantment.

She came tripping down the stair,  
And all her maids before her,  
As soon as they saw her weel-faur'd face,  
They cast their *glamourie* o'er her.

*Johnnie Faa: The Gypsy Laddie, Border Minstrelsy.*

**Glaver**, to flatter, to lear, to ogle.

To glose or to *glaver*,  
I will for no maiden.

*Ritson's Ancient Songs, Tye thy mare, Tam, boy.*

Then shall you see those slaves aloof that stood,  
And would have let him starve, like spaniels to him crouch,  
And with their *glavering* lips his very feet to toad.

*Drayton's Polybion.*

These *glaverers* gone ; myself to rest I laid,  
And doubting nothing, soundly fell asleep.

*Mirror for Magistrates.*

A slavish *glavering*, flattering parasite.

*South's Sermons.*

Oh *glavering* flattery,

How potent art thou.—*Marston: What you Will.*

Bear not a flattering tongue to *glaver* any.

*Antonio and Mellida.*

*Glavering* upon a man to do him harm.

*Holland: Ammianus Marcellinus, 1609.*

And by such subtle *glavering* means,  
Prevent distrust of their desigus.

*Hudibras Redivivus, 1708.*

Mary Beatson with the *glavering* mirth about her mouth.

*Athenæum*, April 21, 1866. Notice of the National Portrait Exhibition.

**Glaverer**, a flatterer.

These *glaverers* gone, myself to rest I laid.

*Mirror for Magistrates.*

**Glee**, music. Before our Anglo-Saxon and Scandinavian ancestors had learned to borrow from the Norman French or from the Latin, new and strange words to express old and

**Glee**—*continued*.

familiar meanings, they had, necessarily, a word for the art of music. That word was *glee*; which by the progress of change and corruption, has come to signify that state of mind which music is so calculated to produce: joyfulness and pleasure. A glee-man was originally a musician. At a later period, when the word Minstrel superseded that of Glee-man, we find the word *glee*, still in use to signify music, as in a passage from 'The Life of Alexander,' by Adam Davie, translated from the French in the reign of Edward II.: 'Orgnes, chymbes, each manner of *glee*,' i.e., organs, cymbals, and all manner of music.

The same idea of music and joyousness pervaded the European languages in the Middle Ages, and music was the 'gay science' in the speech of Germany, England, France, Italy, and Spain. The word '*glee*,' as representing that particular description of music and song in which English musicians have excelled from the very earliest times to our own, still remains; though a 'glee' is not necessarily joyous, but may be plaintive, or even melancholy.

**Gleed,** }  
**Glede,** } a bright, burning coal.

As sparkles glide off the *glede*.—*Romance of Sir Isambas.*

I saw Troy fall down in burning *gledes*.

*Earl of Surrey: Translation of the Æneid.*

The cruel ire, red as any *glede*.

*Chaucer: The Knight's Tale.*

My eyes with tears against the fire striving,  
 Whose scorching *gleed* my heart to cinders turneth.

*Drayton.*

My destiny to behold her doth me lead.

And yet I know I run into the *gleed*.—*Sir Thomas Wyatt.*

For when we see the sun go to *gleed*, we say to-morrow shall be faire weather.—*Udal, Matthew.*

His een glittering for anger like a fiery *gleed*.

*The Fray of Suport, Border Minstrelsy.*

And as glowing *gledes*,

Gladdeth not those workmen.—*Piers Ploughman.*

The sparks and *gledes* that flew out of Muspelheim.

*Gylfi's Mocking, translated by G. W. Dasent, Stockholm, 1842.*



**Gleek**, *v.*, to scoff; to jest at.

Nay, I can *gleek* upon occasion,  
Titania, thou art as wise as thou art beautiful.

*Shakespeare: Midsummer Night's Dream.*

I have seen you *gleeking* and galling upon this gentleman twice or thrice.—*Henry V., act v., scene i.*

Here, Juno, here: but stay, I do espy  
A pretty *gleek* coming from Pallas's eye.

*Beaumont and Fletcher.*

The more that I get her, the more she doth *gleek* at me.

*Tom Tylor and his Wife, 1598.*

**Glent,** } to flash, to glare, to shine.  
**Glint,** }

In Morte Arthur, when Sir Bediver casts the magic sword, Excalibur, into the lake, in obedience to the command of the king,

There came a band withouten rest,  
Out of the water and fain it hent,  
And brandished it, as it should brest,  
And anon as gleime away *glent*.

*i.e.*, glided away like a flash of lightning.

The sunbeams are *glintin'* far over the sea.

*Fisher's Newcastle Garland.*

The rising sun owre Galston muirs,  
Wi' glorious light was *glintin*.

*Burns: The Holy Fair.*

Cauld blew the bitter, biting North,  
Upon thy early, humble birth,  
Yet cheerfully thou *glinted* forth  
Amid the storm.

*Burns: To a Mountain Daisy.*

**Gley**, to squint; *aglee* or *agley*, crooked, aslant, in the wrong direction:

There is a time to *gley*, and a time to look even.

*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

*Gleyed* Sandy he came here yestreen,  
And speired when I saw Pate.—*James Carnegie, 1765.*

The best-laid schemes o' mice an' men  
Gang aft *agley*.

*Burns: To a Mouse.*

**Gliff**, a moment, a short slumber, a nap:—

I'll win out a *gliff* the night for a' that—to dance in the moonlight.

*Scott: The Heart of Mid-Lothian.*

**Gliff**—*continued*.

‘Laid down on her bed for a *gliff*,’ said her grandmother.

*Scott: The Antiquary.*

**Glincey**, smooth and shining, mirror-like. ‘The *glincey* water.’

**Glime**, } to shine brightly and steadfastly; whence *glim*, a  
**Glyme**, } small light; and glimmer to shine fitfully.

**Gloaming**, twilight: from gloom to darken; a word common in Scotland and the North of England, as well as in America.

Gie me the hour o’ *gloamin’* grey,  
 It makes my heart sae cheery O,  
 To meet thee on the lea-rig,  
 My ain kind dearie O!—*Burns*.

’Twi’x the *gloaming* and the mirk,  
 When the kye come hame.—*The Ettrick Shepherd*.

**Glide**, } to move away easily and smoothly. The ancient  
**Glode**, } preterite and past participle have become obsolete,  
**Glidden**, } and have been superseded by *glided*.

His good stede he all bestrode,  
 And forth upon his way he *glode*.—*Chaucer*.

He *glode* forth as an adder doth.—*Idem*.

Through Guy’s shield it *glode*.—*Guy of Warwick*.

The reason of the substitution of the regular for the irregular preterite may be found in the desire to prevent confusion with the regular preterite of the verb to glow.

**Gloom**, to look angry; an angry look:

It is of love, as of fortune,  
 Which whilom will on folke smile,  
 And *gloom* on them another while.

*Chaucer: Romance of the Rose.*

Why use the taws (the rod) when a *gloom* will do it?

*Allan Ramsay.*

**Glose**, to flatter for an evil purpose.

**Glow**, to stare with amazement, a common word in Cornwall and Devonshire.

**Glower**, to look earnestly, to glare, to stare:—

Ye *glowered* at the moon and fell on the midden.

*Allan Ramsay.*

**Glower**—*continued.*

Poor'gapin', *glowerin'* Superstition.

*Burns: To John Goudie of Kilmarnock.*

Satan *glowered* and fidgeted fu' fain:

*Burns: Tam o' Shanter.*

Phœbus gies a short-lived *glower*,

Far south the lift.—*Burns: A Winter Night.*

I am a bard of no regard,

Wi' gentle-folks and a' that ;

But Homer-like, the *glowrin'* byke [swarm],

Frae town to town I draw that.

*Burns: The Jolly Beggars.*

**Glouse**, a strong gleam of heat.—*Halliwell.*

**Glout**, to look sulky.

**Glumpse**, sullenness ; whence the common colloquialism,  
'glumpy,' ill-tempered, morose, out of humour.

**Glunch**, to frown.

**Gnaw**, } to bite at a hard substance. — The old preterite is  
**Gnew**, } lost, doubtless on account of its too great similarity  
in pronunciation to the more familiar word 'knew.'

At last in twa the dowie ropes he *gnew*.

*Ross's Helenore.*

No sustenance got,

But only at the cauld hill's berries *gnew*.—*Ibid.*

**Gome**, the old Anglo-Saxon for a man, a fellow, a companion.

The first *gome* Adam.—*Piers Ploughman.*

For I will go with this *gome*,

If God will give me grace.—*Piers Ploughman.*

**Gomeril**, a lout, a stupid man.

**Gowan**, a daisy.

Far dearer to me are yon humble broom bowers,  
Where the bluebell and *gowan* lurk lowly unseen.

*Burns.*

The night was fair, the moon was up,  
The wind blew low among the *gowans*.

*Legends of the Isles.*

**Gowk**, a cuckoo ; metaphorically a fool ; whence *gawk* and *gawky*, a tall, ungainly, awkward, and stupid person ; from whence also, *gaww-a-mouth*, used in Dorset and Devon, signifying a gaping, wide-mouthed fool, male or female.

You breed of the *gowk*, you have never a song but one.

*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

Sae young the *gowk* tries to appear,  
And fain would mock ilk wrinkle liar.

*Miss Blamire: Cumberland Songs.*

**Gowl**, to weep in anger, more than in sorrow, sulkily, and vindictively, rather than in penitence. From the Gaelic *guil*, to weep, to wail.

*Gowlin'* and whinglin' sae muckle.—*Lover in Cumberland.*

A child born fully,  
Beginnes to *gowle* and cry.—*Halliwel's Archaic Dictionary.*

Ne'er may Misfortune's *gowlins* bark  
Howl through the dwelling o' the clerk.

*Burns. To Gavin Hamilton.*

**Gown**. This word, once so common, is in our day almost superseded by 'dress,' which correctly interpreted, would mean the whole costume, upper and under, from the crown of the head to the sole of the foot. Thus a man's 'dress' would include all his garments ; while, in modern phrase, a woman's dress is only a part of her dress.

**Grab**, } to dig up, to seize.—This verb, in all its in-  
**Grub**, } flections, has been wholly relegated to the speech  
**Grabbed**, } of the vulgar, but, like many other vulgar words,  
has a highly respectable origin. 'Grab,' in its first sense, means to dig a grave or hole ; and 'grub' means that which is dug up, such as roots for human subsistence, whence its modern and slang signification, 'food.'

**Graith**, an excellent and convenient word, meaning all things necessary for preparation or readiness ; the trappings, caparison, or gear, needed in any pursuit, vocation, business, or play. Thus the *grraith* of a sportsman would be the costume, gun, powder, shot, and other trappings ; the *grraith* of a fisherman, or angler, the things that should be ready for the

**Graith**—*continued*.

pursuit of his business or sport. The verb, to *graithe* or *greithe*, signifies to prepare or make ready.

Unto the Jews such a hate had he,  
That he bade *greithe* his chair full hastilie.

*Chaucer: The Reve's Tale.*

Go warn me Perthshire and Angus baith  
And *graithe* my horse.—*Song of the Outlaw Murray.*

He that rides ere be he ready, is sure to want some of his *graithe*.  
*Allan Ramsay.*

When Vulcan gi'es his bellows breath,  
And ploughmen gather wi' their *graithe*.—*Burns: Scotch Drink.*

That woeful moon be ever mourned,  
Saw him in shooting *graithe* adorned,  
While pointers round impatient burned,

Fræ couples freed.—*Burns: Tam Samson's Elegy.*

A critic in the 'Literary Gazette,' of the 30th of March, 1861, called a poet to account for using such an unallowable word as *graithe*, of which he (the critic) declared his utter ignorance.

**Gramarye**, magic.

Whate'er he did of *gramarye*,  
Was always done maliciously.

*Scott: Lay of the Last Minstrel.*

The wild yell and visage strange,  
And the dark woods of *gramarye*.—*Idem.*

**Grayle**, fine particles of gravel.

**Greet,** } to weep.—This verb, with all its declensions, has  
**Grat,** } lost its place in English literature, though the word  
**Grutten,** } 'greet' remains, with a different meaning, 'to salute.' Like other strong Saxon words which modern English has unnecessarily discarded, it is retained in Scotland. It seems to have been lost even in Chaucer's time, who uses 'greet' entirely in the modern sense of 'to salute.' *Piers Ploughman* has it in the sense of 'to lament,' or 'weep':—

And then 'gan Gloton to *greet*,  
And great dool to make.

'It's a sad time,' says an old Scottish proverb, 'when hens crow and bearded men *greet*.' Another proverb says, 'Better bairns should *greet* than bearded men.'

**Greet**—*continued.*

And sighed and *grat*, and *grat* and sighed again.  
*Ross's Helenore.*

Duncan sighed baith out and in,  
*Grat* his een baith bleer't and blin'.  
*Burns: Duncan Gray.*

The Edinbro' wells are *grutten* dry.  
*Burns: Elegy on the Year 1788.*

The bridegroom *grat* when the sun gaed down.—*Old Song.*

O I hae *grutten* mony a day.  
 For one that's banished far away.—*Jacobite Songs.*

An old Scotchwoman in describing her favourite preacher, said he was one 'who spat, and swat, and *grat*, over his sermon.'

**Grieve**, a bailiff, overseer, or magistrate; from the German *graf*, and Anglo-Saxon *ge-refa*, a lord or earl, and the Gaelic *griomh* or *griov*, to do, to act, to perform.

Too many *grieves* hinder the work.  
*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

**Grip**, to seize, to lay fast hold of. It is said of Scotsmen in America, that they have greater *grip* of purpose, knowledge, and business, than Englishmen or Germans. In London a man would say, 'he caught hold of me by the arm,' or 'he seized or took my hand and shook it warmly.' In Scotland and the Border counties, and in old English, the expression would be, 'he *gripped* or grippet me by the arm or hand,' &c.

Will Shore couldna conceive how it was that when he was drunk his feet wadna haud the *grip*.—*Laird of Logan.*

But where you feel your honour *grip*,  
 Let that be aye your border.  
*Burns: Epistle to a Young Friend.*

**Grisly**, terrible, the 'grisly bear.'

So spake the *grisly* terror.—*Milton: Paradise Lost.*

**Grith**, peace, (Anglo-Saxon.)

**Grithserjeant**, a constable or peace officer.

**Grome**, the snout of a boar.

**Groundstalworth**, strongly and firmly fixed in the ground, like a vigorous tree, or a well-built edifice.

**Groundwall**, the foundation.

**Grue**, *v.*, to pain or grieve, used in this sense in Lincolnshire.

**Grue**, to fear greatly.

I never see them but they gar me *grew*;—it's no for fear—no for fear  
—but just for grief.—*Scott: Rob Roy.*

**Gruesome**, fearful, ugly, disagreeable.

Death, that *gruesome* carle.—*Burns.*

**Grythe**, to tremble; whence earth-*grythe*, an earthquake.—  
'Dictionary of the Oldest Words in the English Language.'

**Guest-meal**, a dinner-party.

**Gurl**, to growl.

**Gurly**, growly, savage.

The lift grew dark and the wind blew loud,  
And *gurly* grew the sea.—*Ballad of Sir Patrick Spens.*

When northern blasts the ocean *smurl*,  
And gar the heights and houses *gurl*.—*Allan Ramsay.*

Waesome wailed the snow-white sprites,  
Upon the *gurly* sea.—*Ballad of the Demon Lover.*

Iberius with a *gurly* nod,  
Cried Hogan! yes, we ken your god,  
'Tis herrings you adore.—*Allan Ramsay: The Vision.*

**Gutter-slush**, a term applied metaphorically to an ill-behaved,  
coarse, vulgar, dirty woman, of the lowest class.

**Haet**, a whit, an iota ; *deil a haet*, the devil a bit.

But gentlemen, and ladies warst,  
Wi' ev'ndown want o' wark are curst.  
They loiter, lounging, lank, an' lazy ;  
Though *deil haet* ails them, yet uneasy.

*Burns : The Two Dogs.*

**Hain**, to save, to preserve with care, to spare, to keep without use.

To *hain* a pasture is to exclude cattle from it ; so that the grass may grow for hay.

The weel *hained* kebbuck ; (The well-preserved cheese.)

*Burns : Cotter's Saturday Night.*

Chiels wha their characters winna *hain*,  
But tune their lays.—*Burns : To William Simpson.*

Long fasting *hains* no meat.—*Northern Proverb.*

**Hale**, as contradistinguished from sick. As in the phrase, *hale* and hearty.

**Halfendele**, } a moiety.  
**Halfendel**, }

**Hantle**, a good deal, a quantity—probably derived from *handful*, or that which may be gathered by the hands.

A Scottish clergyman related as his experience after killing his first pig, that 'nae doot there was a *hantle* o' miscellaneous eating about a swine.'

**Hap**, to enwrap, to swathe, to swaddle, to cover up or in warm clothing, or coverlets.

He should be better *hapt*, or covered from the cold.

*More's Utopia.*

*Hap* well your backs, and well your bellies fill.

*Poor Robin.*

I digged a grave and laid him in,  
And *happed* him with the sod so green.

*Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border.*

*Hap* and row, *hap* and row,  
*Hap* and row the feetie o't.—*Burns.*

**Hap**, fate, fortune ; also as a verb, to befall, happen, come to pass.

No man can make his ain *hap*.—*Allan Ramsay.*



**Haps**, travelling rugs, or great coats.

Never travel in Scotland without *haps*. If ye dinna want them for the cauld, ye'll need them for the rain.—*Scott*.

**Hardel**, the back of the hand.

**Hearten**, to encourage, or inspire with heart.

**Hedge-bell**, the wild convolvulus.

**Help**,  
**Holp**,  
**Holpen**, } to aid.—The preterite and past participle are fast becoming obsolete.

For thou hast *holpen* me now.

*Halliwell: Cantab. MS.*

And blind men *holpen*.

*Piers Ploughman.*

Building upon the foundation that went before us, and being *holpen* by their labours.—*The translators of the Bible to the reader: temp. James I.*

**Helve**, a handle.

Throw the *helve* after the hatchet.—*Proverb.*

**Hend**,  
**Hende**,  
**Hynde**, } gentle, courteous, polite.

Tho' spake our host; ah sire ye should been *hende*,  
And courteous as a man of your estate.

*Chaucer: The Frere's Prologue.*

Lancelot spoke with heart free,  
For to comfort that lady *hende*.

*Morte Arthur.*

Whereto should I that maid deceive,  
She was the fairest thing on live,  
She was so *hend* and so well taught.

*Bevis of Hampton.*

*Hende* he was and mild of mood,  
All men spoke of him great good.

*Halliwell: MS. Cantab.*

It may not unreasonably be concluded from these examples that *hende* is the root of the modern *handsome*. The proverb, 'handsome is that handsome does,' means that he who does a gentle and a courteous action, is himself gentle and courteous, or *hende*.

**Hent**, to take, to hold, to seize, to apprehend.

Jog on, jog on, the footpath way,  
And merrily *hent* the stile-a :  
A merry heart goes all the day,  
Your sad tires in a mile-a.

It is probable that in this well-known passage from the song of Autolycus in the 'Winter's Tale,' the preterite *hent* is a misprint for the infinitive *hend*, though it must be admitted that Chaucer uses *hent* both in the present and the past tenses. This is a very unusual defect in an English verb of that early period.

All be it that it was not our intente,  
He should be sauf, but that we sholde him *hent*.

*Chaucer: The Friar's Tale.*

Shakespeare uses *hent* as a substantive, to signify a purpose, an intention to hold by, in Hamlet's exclamation, when he determines not to kill the king at his prayers :

No !  
Up, sword ! and know thou a more horrid *hent* !  
When he is drunk, asleep, or in his rage.

The steward by the throte he *hente*.

*MS. quoted by Halliwell.*

**Henter**, a thief, a holder, or seizer of that which does not belong to him.—*Lydgate*.

**Hext**, highest. Nigh, nigher, and next, are the three recognized and common degrees of comparison, of the adjective nigh or near. The adjective high formerly underwent similar changes ; but the superlative *hext*, useful as a rhyme if for no other purpose, has become obsolete.

The first apple and the *hext*,  
Which ygrowth unto you next ;  
Yhath three virtues notable,  
And keepeth youth aye durable.

*Chaucer's Dream.*

The Archbishops of Canterbury,  
In Engelande that is *hext*.

*Halliwell: MS. Trinity College.*

**Hickery**, ill-natured.

**Hidel**, a hiding-place.

**Hie,** } to haste. This word is nearly obsolete, but survives in  
**Hye,** } heroic and mock-heroic verse; as, 'hie thee hence,'  
 'he *hied* him home.'

**Hind,** a peasant, or farm labourer.

One morning early a farmer you'll find,  
 Was walking along when he met with a *hind*,  
 A poor honest fellow upon the highway.

*The Farmer and the Hind: Notes and Queries, April 21, 1866.*

**Hinderling,** a marplot, an obstructive.

**Hindersome,** } retarding, preventing.  
**Hindrous,** }

**Hirple,** to limp, to halt.

The hares were *hirplin'* down the furs.

*Burns: The Holy Fair.*

**Hirtle,** } to clash, to meet together with violence.  
**Hurtle,** }

They drew out their swords and *hurtled* together.

*History of Prince Arthur.*

And he him *hurtleth* with his horse adown.

*Chaucer: The Knight's Tale.*

That heaven hastilie and erth should *hurtel* together.

*William and the Werewolf.*

Iron sleet of arrowy shower

*Hurtled* in the darkened air.—*Gray's Bard.*

**Hit,** } to strike, to touch violently with a blow. Both pre-  
**Hette,** } terite and past participle are obsolete. *Hitten* sur-  
**Hitten,** } vives in the colloquial language of the peasantry.

Your honor's *hitten* the nail upon the head.

*Ross's Helenore.*

He buffeted me so about the mouth,

That out my teeth he *hette*.—*Piers Ploughman.*

The Americans, in default of the old preterite *hette*, occasionally say *hot*—as, 'he *hot* me a heavy blow; he *hot* out right and left.'

**Hithercome,** arrival.

**Hodden grey.**—In the glossary to the first edition of Allan Ramsay's 'Tea-Table Miscellany,' 1724, *hodden* is described

**Hodden grey**—*continued*.

as a coarse cloth. *Hodden grey* is, therefore, coarse grey cloth. It was usually home-made by the Scottish peasantry of the Lowlands, and formed the material of their working-day clothes.

What though on hamely fare we dine,  
Wear *hodden grey*, and a' that ;  
Gi'e fools their silks, an' knaves their wine,  
A man's a man for a' that.—*Burns*.

If a man did his best to murder me, I should not rest comfortably until I knew that he was safe in a well-ventilated cell, with the *hodden grey* garments of the gaol upon him.—*Trial of Prince Pierre Bonaparte: Daily Telegraph, March 26, 1870.*

**Hoils**, the beards of barley.

**Hold**, } to have, grasp, or retain in possession.—The past  
**Held**, } participle is obsolete, but might be advantageously  
**Holden**, } revived for the sake of the rhyme which it affords  
to 'golden,' 'embolden,' &c.

**Holme**, a meadow near a river or stream ; in some parts of the country called a botham, or bottom.

**Holt**, a small patch of forest.

About the rivers, valleys, *holts*, and drags,  
Among the ozers and the waving flags.

*Browne: Britannia's Pastorals.*

**Holyrood**, the holy cross.**Holystead**, a holy place.**Home-come**, arrival at home.

**Hore**, the preterite of hire, whence whore, a hireling. In the original sense of *hire*, and *hore*, a barrister, a physician, a soldier, or in a lower rank, any one receiving pay, or wages for service rendered, might have been addressed by this word.

**Hotfoot**, in such haste that the foot is hot with running the errand.

**House-carle**, a male domestic servant.

Rebuking, as every child has heard, her *house-carle's* flattery.  
*Hereward, Rev. Charles Kingsley.*

He is a *house-carle* of mine, Lord King.—*Ibid.*

**Hove**, preterite of heave, to hoist; and preferable to the modern and weaker preterite *heaved*. 'The ship *hove* in sight,' is still a correct nautical phrase.

**Howff**, a public-house, a place that a person is accustomed to frequent for conversation and conviviality; also used as a verb.

Burns's *howff* at Dumfries.—*Chambers.*

Where was't that Robertson and you were used to *howff* thegither?—  
*Scott: Heart of Mid-Lothian.*

**Howk**, to dig, or scrape up the earth like an animal, or without tools.

He's *howket* a grave by the light o' the moon.  
*Cumberland Ballads: The Sun shines fair on Carlisle wa'.*

She has *howked* a hole both deep and wide,  
 And put them in both, side by side.  
*The Cruel Mother.*

**Huly,** } softly, fairly, comfortably.  
**Hooly,** }

When he was on the other side,  
 Then fair and *hulie* could he ride.  
*Romance of Sir Eger, Sir Graham, and Sir Gray Steel.*

'Friend! *huly*! haste not half so fast,  
 Lest,' quoth Experience, 'at the last  
 Ye buy my doctrine dear.'  
*The Cherry and the Sloe, 1590.*

*Hooly* and fairly go far in a day.  
*Northern Proverb.*

Oh *hooly, hooly*, ran she up,  
 To the place where he was lying,  
 And when she drew the curtain, said,  
 'Young man I think you're dying.'  
*Barbara Allan, Percy's Reliques.*

Oh gin my wife would drink *hooly* and fairly.  
*Burns.*

**Humoursome**, capricious, full of odd conceits, crotchets, and humours.

**Hurdies**, the breech, the hips.

His tail  
Hung o'er his *hurries* wi' a swirl.

*Burns : The Twa Dogs.*

Ye godly brethren o' the sacred gown,  
Wha meekly gae your *hurries* to the smiters.

*Burns : The Brigs of Ayr.*

Pendable? ye may say that ; his craig wad ken the weight of his *hurries* if they could get haud o' Rob.—*Scott : Rob Roy.*

The old French poet, François Villon, when condemned to be hanged, wrote a stanza in which the idea of Sir Walter Scott occurs in language about as forcible, but not so elegant :—

Je suis Français (dont ce me poise),  
Né de Paris, emprés Ponthoise,  
Or d'une corde d'une toise  
Sçaura mon col que mon cul poise.

**Hurkle**, to shrug the shoulders.

**Hurly**, a noise, whence *hurly burly*, a confused noise.

**Imp**, to lengthen, or shoot out, to *imp* the wings for flight.

That pretty Cupid, God of love,  
Whom *imped* wings with speckled plumes are dight.

*Drayton's Pastorals.*

*Imp* out our drooping country's broken wings.—*Shakespeare.*

**Imp**, from the Anglo-Saxon *impa*, to engraft, emplant; or from the German *empfangen*, to receive, to conceive, to become pregnant; or from *impfen*, to graft, or inoculate; from whence *imp*, a child, a bud, a shoot. In German, *impfling* is a child that has been vaccinated.

He took upon him to protect him from them all, and not to suffer goodly an *imp* (Alcibiades) to lose the good fruit of his youth.

*North's Plutarch.*

Of feeble trees there cometh wretched *impes*.—*Chaucer.*

Ye sacred *imps* that in Parnassus dwell.—*Spenser.*

And thou most dreaded *imp* of highest Jove,

Fair Venus' son.—*Spenser: Faerie Queene.*

A lad of life, an *imp* of fame.—*Shakespeare: Henry V.*

*Ympe* it in our thoughts, (i.e., engraft it in our minds).

*MS. Digby (Halliwell.)*

This word has been gradually perverted from its original meaning; and *imp* now signifies a young demon; or is applied in wrath or contempt to a very wicked or disagreeable child.

But as the devil owes all his *imps* a shame,

He chose the apostate as his proper theme.

*Dryden: Absalom and Achitophel.*

The serpent, fittest *imp* of fraud.—*Milton.*

**Impleach**, interweave.

With twisted metal amorously *impleached*.

*Shakespeare: A Lover's Complaint.*

**Ingle**, a fire-place, or fire-side. The original meaning of the word seems to have been a favourite or dear friend; as in the phrase quoted by Nares, 'Call me your love, your *ingle*, your cousin, or so; but sister, at no hand.' Or in 'Donne's Elegies':

Thy little brethren, which like fairy sprites,  
Oft skipt into our chamber those sweet nights,  
And kiss'd and *ingled* on thy father's knee.

From this idea, probably, the fire-side, or place most comfortable and sought after in the house, came to be called the

**Ingle**—*continued*.

*ingle*, or the favourite ; the place of honour reserved for age, or for the evening assemblage of the family. A proverb in Allan Ramsay's collection seems to lend strength to this supposition. It says, 'a good *ingle* makes a room fire-side ;' as if fire-side and *ingle* were not altogether synonymous.

In the ancient sense the word has utterly disappeared, but, as the name for the blazing hearth and favourite corner, it survives in the north of England and Scotland. Burns, in his 'Cotter's Saturday Night,' has made it familiar to all the lovers of poetry :

His wee bit *ingle* blinkin' bonnily ;  
and it has been used by some of the best modern writers  
and speakers, both north and south of the Tweed.

Better a wee *ingle* to warm you, than a muckle fire to burn you.  
*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

**Inwit**, conscience ; as distinguished from outwit, knowledge, ability, information.

Who murthereth a good man,  
Me thinketh by mine *inwit*,  
He fordeth the livest light,  
That our hand loveth.—*Piers Ploughman.*

With *inwit* and with *outwit*,  
Imaginin' and studie.—*Idem.*

**Irk**, to weary, tire, trouble, or distress, derived by some grammarians from work.

King Edward in his life, albeit, that this dissension between his friends somewhat *irked* him.—*Sir Thomas More's Works.*

Now use it *irketh* me,  
That to thy bliss I made this luckless breach.—*Spenser.*  
Even Christ's easy yoke thy *irke* to bear.

*Stirling : Domes Day, The Fifth Hour.*

As a verb the word is almost obsolete, but the adjective *irksome* remains fixed in the language.



**Jade**, to exhaust, or weary. The past participle *jaded*, wearied, remains in common usage. To *jade*, was a new word in the time of James I., as may be inferred from Lord Bacon, who says :

It is a dull thing to tire, or as we now say to *jade*, any thing too far.

**Janglesome**, quarrelsome.

**Jant**, cheerful, merry, whence the modern *jaunty*.

**Jape**, to jest, to cheat, to mock, to laugh at. This word and its derivatives, *japer*, a buffoon ; *japery*, buffoonery ; and *jape-worthy*, ridiculous ; are of common occurrence in Chaucer.

Till that our host to *japen* he began.—*The Rhyme of Sir Topaz*.

Thus hath he *japed* thee for many a year.—*The Knight's Tale*.

I will tell you as well as ever I can,  
A little *jape* that fell in our citie.—*The Coke's Prologue*.

Demosthenes his hands once put  
Into a woman's bosom *japingly*.—*Halliwel: MS. Occleve*.

**Jaunce**, to ride hard.

And yet I bear a burden like an ass,  
Spur-galled and tired by *jauncing* Bolingbroke.

*Shakespeare: Richard II.*

'*Jaunce*,' says Nares, 'was also used for a jaunt.' A jaunty car would thus be a *jauncing* car, or a car driven swiftly.

**Jig**, this word that now signifies a dance, formerly signified a song or ballad. The word *ballad* is from *ballare*, to dance ; so that both *jig* and ballad are words that combine the ideas of singing and dancing. When there were no musical instruments or players available at a festivity, it would seem from their derivatives, that the voice of a singer was used to set the feet of the dancers in motion.

While here you *jig*,  
How is your ballad titled ?—*The Fatal Contract*.

Look to it, you booksellers and stationers, and let not your shops be infected with such stinking garbage—as the *jigs* of newsmongers.

*Pierce Penniless.*

**Jim**, dainty, well-formed, well-fitting.

Of all these maidens mild as mead,  
Was nane sae *jimp* as Gillie.—*Christ's Kirk on the Green*.

**Jimp**—*continued.*

Oh wha will shoe my fair foot,  
Or wha will glove my hand,  
Or wha will lace my middle *jimp*,  
Wi' a new made London band?—*Annie o' Lochroyam.*

There were pipers playing in every neuk,  
And ladies dancing *jimp* and sma'.

*The wee wee man : Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border.*

**Jink**, to play, to sport, to dodge in and out ; from whence the phrase *high-jinks*, sometimes used in England to describe the merriment and sport of servants in the kitchen when their masters and mistresses are out :

O thou, my Muse ! guid auld Scotch drink,  
Whether through wimplin' worms thou *jink*,  
Or, richly brown, ream o'er the brink

In glorious faem.—*Burns : Scotch Drink.*

**Jobbernowle**, a thick-headed, dull, heavy person.

His guts are in his brains, huge *jobbernowle*.—*Marston.*

**Joe**, { a lover, a friend, a dear companion—derived not from  
**Jo**, { Joseph, as has been ignorantly asserted, but from the  
French *joie* or English *joy*.

John Anderson, my *jo*, John.—*Burns.*

Kind sir, for your courtesie,  
As ye gae by the Bass then,  
For the love ye bear to me,  
Buy me a keeking-glass then.

Keek into the draw-well,  
Janet, Janet ;  
There ye'll see your bonny sel',

My *jo*, Janet.—*Old Song, remodelled by Burns.*

**Joss**, to crowd or press together ; whence the diminutive *jostle*, to press against in a crowd.

**Jow**, the sound of a great bell.

And every *jow* that the dead-bell gied,  
Cried woe to Barbara Allan.

*Barbara Allan : Border Minstrelsy.*

**Jowl**, a monotonous sound, as of a bell.

They draw their swords to the *jowl* o' the bell.

*Cumberland Border Ballads.*

**Jug-bitten**, drunk.

Nor when any of them are wounded, *pot-shot*, *jug-bitten*, or *cup-shaken*, so that they have lost all reasonable faculties of the mind.

*Taylor's Workes, 1631, quoted by Nares.*

**Jùly.** The original and correct pronunciation of the name of the month, now accentuated on the last syllable. If Jùly, be July, Àugust should be August, and Àpril April. Chaucer has *Juil* without the second syllable.

And lowly *Jùly* in her eyes takes place.

*Robert Greene: Ferimedes the Blacksmith, 1588.*

**Jump,** exact, to the point ; from *jimp*, precise and well-fitting.

And brings him *jump* where he may Cassio find.

*Shakespeare: Othello.*

He said the music best these powers displayed,

Was *jump* concord betwixt our wit and will.

*Pembroke's Arcadia.*

The common phrase, that the ideas of two people jump together, means that they fit or jimp together exactly.

I will not choose what many men desire,

Because I will not *jump* with common spirits,

And rank me with the barbarous multitude.

*Shakespeare: Merchant of Venice.*

**Jumpley,** from *jimp* or *jimply*, suitably, opportunely.

My meeting so *jumpley* with them, makes me abashed with the strangeness of it.—*Arcadia.*

**Kam**, crooked ; from the Gaelic *cam*.

This is clean *kam*.

*Shakespeare : Coriolanus.*

Clean contrary *cam*, quite crooked.

*Cotgrave.*

**Kane**, } tribute, or rent paid in kind ; from the Gaelic *cain*.  
**Kain**, } Mr. Halliwell says the word is current in this sense  
 in the East of England.

Our laird gets in his racked rents,  
 His coals, his *kain*.

*Burns : The Two Dogs.*

I'd hae paid my *kane* seven times to hell,  
 Ere you'd been won away.

*Ballad of the Young Tamlane : Motherwell's Collection.*

There is a well-known Jacobite song, of which the burthen is, 'They shall pay *kane* to the king the morn.'

A Northern proverb says of a man who has atoned for all his faults by death,

He has paid the *kane* for all.

**Keach**, to lade or ladle out water ; or take water out of a well by dipping in a pitcher or other utensil.

**Kebars**, rafters of a house or other building ; from the Gaelic *ca'bar*.

He ended and the *kebars* shook.

*Burns : The Jolly Beggars.*

**Keech**, a fat round lump, a keg (of butter).

That such a *keech* (as Wolsey) can with his very bulk,  
 Take up the rays o' the beneficial sun,  
 And keep them from the earth.

*Shakespeare : Henry VIII.*

**Kelf**, a fool, Scotticè, a coof or cuif.

One, Squire Ereas, a great *kelf*,  
 Some wandering hangman like himself.

*Cotton, 1734.*

**Kelpie**, a water spirit ; noted in the superstition of Scotland.

The *kelpie* galloped across the green.

*The Kelpie of Corrynrecka.*

**Kemp**, a soldier, a champion.

Till *kemp* Owyne come o'er the sea,  
And borrow you with kisses three.

*Kemp Owyne, Motherwell's Ancient and Modern Minstrelsy.*

**Kemp**, to strive with another who shall do most work in a given time ; i.e., who shall become the kemp, champion, or foremost man.

There is no kynge under Christe who can *kemp* with him.

*Morte Arthur.*

**Kempt**, preterite and past participle of comb. *Unkempt*, for uncombed, is still used in literary and poetical composition.

There is nothing valiant or solid to be hoped for from such as are always *kempt*, perfumed, and every day smell of the tailor.

*Ben Jonson.*

**Kep**, to catch, to receive ; from the same root as 'keep,' to retain, but distinguished from 'keep' by a sensible difference ; 'for you may *kep* what you do not keep : ' i.e., you may catch what you do not hold ; you may receive a hundred pounds and fail to retain them.

Ilka blade o' grass *keps* its ain drap o' dew.

*Scottish Proverb.*

Mourn, Spring, thou darling of the year !

Ilk cowslip cup shall *kep* a tear.

*Burns : Elegy on Captain Matthew Henderson.*

**Kern**, (whence corn,) the fruit of wheat ; and in the form of *kernel*, or 'little corn,' the edible portion of a nut.

**Kern**, to turn from blossom to fruit, to set, to granulate.

**Kevil**, } a lot. To cast kevals, or kavel ; to draw lots. *Gavel-*  
**Kavel**, } *kind*, distribution of an estate by lot, among the chil-  
**Gavil**, } dren ; from the Gaelic *gabhail*, *bh* pronounced as *v*,  
a portion of work performed by cattle at one yoking. In Thomson's 'Etymons of English Words,' it is stated that *kavel* or *cavel*, originally meant a stick ; and that the father of a family, in Kent, where the law of gavel-kind prevailed, had the names of the different portions of his estate inscribed on pieces of wood, which he enclosed in a box. At his decease, his children drew their lots, and inherited accordingly. A similar practice was known to the ancient Greeks.

**Kevil**—*continued.*

Happy man, happy *kevil* !  
Let every man be content with his ain *kavel*.

*Allan Ramsay.*

And they cast *kevils* them amang,  
Wha should to the greenwood gang.

*Cospatrick : Scott's Border Minstrelsy.*

**Kex**, dry stalk of hemlock or corn ; a rush.

As doth a *kex* or a candle.

*Piers Ploughman.*

I bring with me a booke as dry as a *kex*.

*Skelton.*

**Kexy,** } juiceless, sapless, dry.  
**Kisky,** }

**Kilt**, to lift up the petticoats or clothes, to avoid wetting them, when going on a journey on foot.

She has *kilted* her coats of green satin,  
She has *kilted* them up to the knee,  
And is off wi' Lord Ronald McDonald,  
His bride and his darling to be.

Kilt is the English or Saxon name for the most conspicuous portion of the Highland garb, called by the Highlanders themselves the fillibeg, or little coat. The phrase *high kilted* is sometimes used metaphorically to denote language that borders upon indecency ; as in the following description of the popular Muse of Scotland :

If sometimes *high kilted* in her language, her heart is pure. She never jests at virtue, though she often has a fling at hypocrisy. Her laughter is as refreshing as her tears ; and her humour is as exquisite as her tenderness.—*Jacobite Songs and Ballads of Scotland*, 1861.

**Kime**, a silly fellow.

**Kinchen**, a small child ; from the German diminutive of *kind*, a child, *kindchen*. This word is said by Nares to be a 'cant term ;' but is not such by its derivation. Properly it should be kinkin, on the same principle as 'mannikin,' a little man.

**Kindle**, to inflame. This word is not quite obsolete, either in literature or conversation ; but is partially superseded by a less elegant and forcible word, 'to light.' 'To *kindle* a fire,' is better English than to *light* a fire. 'Light the candle,' is correct, because the candle is required for its light ; whereas 'light the fire,' is not so forcible, because the fire is *kindled*, not for its light, but its heat.

**Kindling-wood**, fire-wood, wood for kindling fires. This phrase is common in America, but almost obsolete in England.

**Kink**, { *v.* to twist, entangle.  
           { *n.* a curl, a notion.

May Margaret sits in the Queen's Bower,  
*Kinking* her fingers, one by one.

*Ballad of May Margaret : Motherwell's Collection.*

This word is common in America both as noun and verb. A curly-headed man is said to have *kinks* in his hair ; and a man with odd ideas to have *kinks* in his brain.

**Kike**, }  
**Keek**, } to peep slyly, to look in.

As he had *keyked* on the new moone.

*Chaucer : The Miller's Tale.*

When the tod (fox) is in the wood, he cares na how many *keek* at his tail.—*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

Stars dinna *keek* in,  
 And see me wi' Mary.—*Burns.*

The gossip *keekit* in his loof (hand),  
 Quo' she, who lives will see the proof,  
 This waly boy will be nae coof (fool),  
 I think we'll ca' him Robin.—*Burns.*

And now the sun *keeks* in the west,  
 And I maun rise among the rest.

*Burns : Epistle to Lapraik.*

The Robin came to the wren's nest,  
 And *keeked* in.

*Nursery Rhymes of England.*

**Kirtle**, a petticoat, or loose gown.

What stuff wilt thou have a *kirtle* of?

*Shakespeare : Henry IV.*

All in a *kirtle* of discoloured soy.

*Spenser : Faerie Queene.*

**Kiss-worthy**, deserving of a kiss, inspiring affection.

Thy most *kiss-worthy* face,  
 Anger invests with such lovely grace,  
 That Anger's self I needs must kiss again.

*Sir Philip Sidney.*

Kith, } to show, to appear, to make known, from whence the  
 Kithe, } preterite *kouth* or *couth*, known; *sel-couth* used by  
 Kythe, } Chaucer, and meaning seldom known; and the modern word *uncouth*, which originally meant strange and unknown, but which has by degrees come to signify rough, rude, and unshapely. The modern word *kith*, as distinguished from kin, in the phrase of 'kith and kin,' means acquaintances, or people who are known, as distinguished from relatives.

Take your sport and *kythe*, you knights.

*Metrical Romance of Sir Ferumbras.*

Lift up thine hart and sing with gude intent,

And in thy notes sweete the treson telle,

That to thy sister true and innocent,

Was *kythet* by her husband false and fell.

*The King's Quair.*

Their faces blythe, fu' sweetly *kythe*,

Hearts leal and warm and kin'.

*Burns: Halloween.*

If you love me, *kythe* it.

True love *kythes* in time of need.

*Kythe* in your ain colours, that folk may know you,

*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

The deed that thou hast done this night,

Will *kythe* upon the morrow.

*Sweet William and Lady Margaret.*

**Kittle**, difficult, perilous, ticklish.

'A *kittle* question,' one that is not only difficult but inconvenient to answer; 'a *kittle* horse,' one troublesome to manage; 'a *kittle* subject,' a ticklish subject.

'Gude man,' quo' he, 'put up your whittle,

I'm no designed to try its mettle,

But if I did, I wad be *kittle*

To be mislear'd.'—*Death and Dr. Hornbook.*

Butter and burn trout are *kittle* meat for maidens.

It's *kittle* shooting at crows and clergy.

It's *kittle* to waken sleeping dogs.

It's *kittle* for the cheeks when a wheelbarrow goes over the nose.

*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*



**Knab**, to take hold of, to bite, or gnaw ; to take the head off ; whence also knib, nib, and nibble.

I had (could) much rather lie *knabbing* crusts without fear, than be mistress of the world with cares.—*L'Estrange*.

Oh once I had the best of hay  
And fodder in the stall,  
But now I'm forced to *knab* the grass  
That grows beneath the wall.  
Poor old horse !—*Old Ballad*.

**Knabb**, } the top or head of a mountain. This word is com-  
**Knapp**, } mon in Westmoreland and Cumberland ; and constantly occurs in topographical nomenclature. *Knabb*-Scaur, opposite Rydal Mount, the former residence of Wordsworth, is frequently mentioned in his poems. Knapdale is also a well-known district.

**Knobbly**, } round, lumpy, like a mountain.  
**Nobby**, }

**Knoll**, }  
**Knowle**, } a round hill ; Scottish *knowe*.

Upon a *knowe* they sat them down,  
And there began a long digression  
About the lords o' the creation.  
*Burns: The Two Dogs.*

**Knee-bending**, a genuflexion.

**Knee-crooking**, obsequious, slavish in homage.

Many a duteous and *knee-crooking* knave.—*Shakespeare*.

**Knell**, to ring or toll the bell for a funeral ; to sound the *knell*.

**Knoll**, preterite of *knell*.

**Knevel**, the moustache. The hair on the upper lip was worn for ages, before the modern, and now the only, name for the thing was borrowed from the Spanish. The word is entirely obsolete, but pure English.

**Knit**, now used as the infinitive of the verb to knit, was originally the preterite of 'knot,' to tie in a knot, as in Robert Burns' song of 'The Ploughman.'

**Knit**—*continued*.

The ploughman he's a bonny lad,  
His mind is ever true, jo,  
His garters *knit* below his knee.

**Knoppe**, a button or a bud ; a word in common use before the English people began to import their fashions as well as their speech from the continent ; and one form of which still survives as *knob*, the knob or button of a door. The French still say, '*les boutons de la rose*,' i.e., the *buttons*, buds, or *knoppes* of the rose.

And with a hend of golde tassiled,  
And *knoppes* fine of golde.—*Chaucer : Romance of the Rose*.

About the rede roses springing,  
The stalke was as rushe right,  
And there stoode the *knoppe* upright.—*Idem*.

Take half a pound of rede rose flowers that be gathered early whyle the dew lasts, and ben ful sprad, and pulle off the *knoppes* and clyppe hem with a pair sherys.—*MS.*, 16th century, quoted by *Halliwell*.

**Knurl**, sometimes written *nirl*, to shrink up with the cold. A dwarf, or any shrunken object. A common word in the Border Counties of England and Scotland.

The corn has been *nirled* with the drowth.—*Jamieson*.

A perfect *knurl* ; I've seen as buirdly a chiel in a glass bottle upon a doctor's shelf.—*Reginald Dalton*.

**Koister**, a rough, ignorant, ill-tempered fellow, a churl, from the French *cuistre*.

**Kye**, cows, or cattle generally. The plural *kine* is still used in the north of England and Scotland, and in poetic composition.

**Kype**, a grimace.

**Lack**, to be in want of: a verb that is fast becoming obsolete. *Lack-wit*, *lack-penny*, *lack-land*, *lack-lustre*, *lack-love*, *lack-beard*, *lack-teeth*, *lack-brain*, &c., were once common expressions, the disuse of which has not been remedied by the modern synonymes and periphrastic circumlocutions employed to represent them.

**Lade**, to empty out or to let in water by degrees, whence the diminutive *ladle*.

**Lag**, *n.*, the extreme end, and also as a verb, to remain behind, at the very end or last.

The *lag* end of my life.—*Shakespeare: Henry IV.*

The senators of Athens with the common *lag* of people.  
*Shakespeare: Timon of Athens.*

**Langsyne**, a long time ago. See **Auld Lang Syne**, page 29.

**Langsyner**, a person who lived a long while ago, (Northumbrian and Scottish).

**Lanken**, } to grow lean and lanky.  
**Lank**, }

Thy cheek so much as *lank'd* not.

*Shakespeare: Antony and Cleopatra.*

**Lass-lorn**, having lost or been dismissed by a mistress.

Whose shadow the dismissed bachelor loves,  
Being *lass-lorn*.—*Shakespeare: The Tempest.*

**Laugh**, } The ancient preterite and past participle of this verb  
**Lough**, } have been superseded by the modern preterite  
**Leuch**, } in *ed*:

Then *lough* there a lord,  
And 'By this light' saide,  
'I hold it right and reson.'—*Piers Ploughman.*

He cleped it Valerie and Theophrast,  
And *lough* always full fast.

*Chaucer: The Wife of Bath's Prologue.*

**Laugh**—*continued*.

When she had read Wise William's letter,  
She smiled and she *leuch*.—*Motherwell's Collection*.

'I think not so,' she halfins said, and *leuch*.—*Ross's Helenore*.

How graceless Ham *leuch* at his dad,  
Which made Canaan a nigger.—*Burns: The Ordination*.

An' ilka ane *leuch* him to scorn.  
*Percy's Reliques: The Auld Guidman*.

**Lave**, the residue; that which is omitted or left out. The Anglo-Saxons called a widow a *lase*, or *lave*, i.e., a relict. In the Ode on Athelstane's Victory in 'Ellis's Specimens of Early English Poets,' the word occurs twice: 'Mid hyra here *leafuna*,' with the *lave* or remainder 'of the army;' and 'Dreorig dare the *laf*,' 'dreary there the lave.' In the excellent song of Burns, 'First when Maggy was my care,' the chorus 'whistle o'er the *lave* o't;' could not be rendered by any synonyme, without the total destruction of the strength and beauty of the expression. 'Whistle o'er the *rest* of it,' would be tame, besides being liable to the misinterpretation of rest for repose; and 'whistle o'er the *remainder*, *rest*, or residue of it,' would be prosaic.

**Laze**, to loll, to be idle, to lie in the sunshine doing nothing; whence the adjective *lazy*.

Cupid *lazeth* 'mong the fairy lasses.—*Nares*.

**Lea**, } a field. Not obsolete in poetry, but almost obsolete in  
**Lee**, } prose. It survives in Scotland and the north of Eng-  
**Ley**, } land; and throughout England as a termination to  
many well-known surnames, such as Stan*ley*, the stone-field;  
Winstan*ley*, the whin-stone field; Edge*ley*, the field on the  
edge; Endsleigh or Ends*ley*, the field at the end; Buck*ley*  
the field of the beech tree; Oak*ley*, the field of the oak;  
Fairleigh or Fair*ley*, the fair-field, &c.

**Leap**, } to leap. At what time this verb followed the analogy  
**Lope**, } of weep, creep, and sleep, and formed its preterite in  
**Lopen**, } leapt or lept, does not very clearly appear:

And they laughing *lope* to her.—*Piers Ploughman*.

**Leap**—*continued*.

Have *lopen* the better.—*Piers Ploughman*.

Up he *lope* and the window broke,  
And he had thirty foot to fall.

*Percy's Reliques: The Murder of the King of Scots.*

Tom Rindle *lope* fra the chimley nook.

*Waugh's Lancashire Songs.*

**Lele,** }  
**Leal,** } loyal, faithful, true ; 'The land o' the leal,' heaven.

Her love is ever true and *lele*.

*Cursor Mundi MS. Trin. Coll. Cantab.*

But a clere virgin that is *lele*,  
Has yet more than has the angele.—*MS. Harl.*

'Oh stop ! oh stop ! young man,' she said,

'For I in dule am dight,  
Oh stop and win a fair lady's love,

If you be a *leal* true knight.'—*Ballad of Sir Roland.*

I'm wearing awa, Jean,  
Like snow wreaths in thaw, Jean,  
I'm wearing awa, Jean,

To the land o' the *leal*.

*Lady Nairne.*

*Leal*-heart never lied.

Lang *lal*, lang poor.

Spier at Jack Thief if I be a *leal* man.

*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

**Leath**, cessation or soothing.

The *leath* of pain in sleep.

**Leer**, empty.

This word is sufficiently common in every part of Devonshire ; a *leer* stomach, an empty stomach.—*Giffard*.

A *leer* horse, a horse without a rider (empty), whence the phrase came to signify a led horse.—*Nares*.

**Leeze**, to approve, to be highly in favour of anything.

*Leeze* me on the spinning-wheel.—*Burns*.

**Leman**, a lover ; originally applied to both sexes, but in progress of time, and in the improvement, or may be corruption of the language, applied solely to the female ; and by a still

**Leman**—*continued*.

later corruption, to signify a mistress, as distinguished from a wife.

Many a lovely lady and *leman* of knightes,  
Swoonden and swelten for sorow of death's dints.

*Piers Ploughman.*

Every maiden chose her lover,  
Every knight his *leman*.

*Guy of Warwick.*

Of Ascalot, that maiden free,  
I said you, she was his *leman*.

*Morte Arthur.*

**Leme,** } to shine ; a light.  
**Leam,** }

The light of Heaven is a *leme*,  
Brighter than is the sone beme.

*MS. Ashmole.*

The lawnces with lorayne and *lemande* scheldes.

*Morte Arthur.*

The starres with the *leming* leven,  
Shall sadly falle down from heaven.

*Cursor Mundi MS. Trin. Coll. Cam., quoted by Halliwell.*

Which causeth folk to dreden in their dremes,  
Of arwes and of fire with rede *lemes*.

*Chaucer : The Nonnes Preeste's Tale.*

The bright *leme* of a torch.

*Sir T. Elyot.*

With lily-white cheek and *leming* eye,  
She look'd and laughed to him.

*The Jolly Goss-Hawk, Border Minstrelsy.*

**Lesing**, a lie, a falsehood.

For we lived on the *lesynges*.

*Piers Ploughman.*

**Lest,** } to please. I *lest*, I please ; I *list*, I pleased ; I have  
**List,** } *lust*, I have pleased ; seem to have been the original  
**Lust,** } forms for the conjugation of this verb ; but at an early  
period, the present, the preterite, and the past participle,  
were indiscriminately used as the infinitive. In Chaucer we  
find *lest* :

And then our hoste began his horse to reste,  
And saide, lordes ! harkeneth if you *lest*.

*The Knight's Tale.*

**Lest**—*continued*.

In Lord Surrey's Translation of Virgil, and in the authorized translation of the Bible, it is *list*—

To whatsoever land  
By sliding seas we *listed* them to lead.  
*Surrey, Æneid.*

The wind bloweth where it *listeth*.  
*John* iii. 8.

The past participle *lust* had been perverted from its original meaning long before the divines, appointed by James I., had commenced the translation of the Bible; and had come to signify unlawful or inordinate animal or worldly desire; as in the saying of Jesus: 'Whoso looketh on a woman to *lust* after her, hath committed adultery with her already in his heart;' and in St. Paul's first Epistle to the Corinthians: 'We should not *lust* after evil things as they also *lusted*.'

*Lest* and *lust* were both converted into substantives, signifying delight and pleasure, but not necessarily in an evil sense. Chaucer, in the 'Knichte's Tale,' says,

Farewell my life, my *luste*, and my gladness;

and in the 'Assemblie of Fowles,' where he speaks of his own love of literature, he says:

Of usage, what for *lust*, and what for love,  
In bookes rede I oft, as I you told.

Fuller, in his 'Worthies,' has *list* instead of *lust*, in the same sense:

Those Irish lords made their *list* the law to such whom they could overpower.

From this root comes the modern word *listless*, without desire of pleasure; and perhaps the colloquial expression to *list* (afterwards *enlist*) for a soldier, i.e., to please to become a soldier; to go voluntarily, and not by conscription, as in other countries.

**Let**, to prevent, impede, or hinder. This word survives in the passports granted to British subjects by the Foreign Office,

Let—*continued.*

in which the Princes and Potentates of Europe are notified to permit Mr. A. B., or C. D., to travel in their territories 'without *let* or hindrance.'

Unhand me, gentlemen !  
By heaven ! I'll make a ghost of him that *lets* me !  
*Shakespeare: Hamlet.*

Let, } to permit, to allow.—This verb has lost all its inflec-  
Loot, } tions in literary and colloquial English, but preserves  
Letten, } them in the Scottish dialect.

But *letten* him lede forth whom hym liked.  
*Piers Ploughman.*

And aye she *loot* the tears down fa'  
For Jock o' Hazeldean.  
*Sir Walter Scott.*

Ye've *loot* the ponie o'er the dyke.—*Burns.*  
But dool had not yet *letten* her feel her want.  
*Ross's Helenore.*

She'd pu'd him frae the milk-white steed,  
And *loot* the bridle fa'.  
*Motherwell's Collection.*

Levin, } the lightning. In Mr. Dasent's introduction to  
Leven, } 'Popular Tales from the Norse,' he says—'The trolls  
cannot bear the glorious face of the sun, Balder's beaming  
visage, or the bright flash of Thor's *levin* bolt.' Chaucer  
rhymes the word with heaven, and imprecates vengeance on  
the scorners of women in a magnificent line :

Thus sayest thou lorel, when thou goes to bed,  
And that no wise man needeth for to wed,  
Ne no man that intendeth unto heaven ;  
*With wild thunder dint and fiery LEVEN,*  
Mote thy welked neck be to be broke !  
*Wife of Bath's Prologue.*

The thunder with his fiery *leven*,  
So cruel was upon the heaven.—*Gower.*

Since that the sire of gods, and kings of men,  
Struck me with thunder, and with *levening* blast.  
*Surrey.*



**Levin**—*continued*.

And when the flashing *leven* leaps to light  
Upon two stubborn oaks.

*Spenser: Faerie Queene.*

To him as to the burning *leven*,  
Short, bright, resistless course was given.

*Scott: Marmion.*

**Levin-brand**, a thunderbolt.

His burning *leven-brand* in hand he took.

*Spenser: Faerie Queene.*

**Lewdster**, an indecent, lewd, obscene person.

Against such *lewdsters* and their lechery,  
Those that betray them do no treachery.

*Shakespeare: Merry Wives of Windsor.*

**Lief**, } derived from the Anglo-Saxon *leof*, and German *liebe*,  
**Liever**, } love or inclination; but displaced in modern litera-  
**Liefer**, } ture by the less forcible phrases 'as soon as,'  
'sooner,' 'rather.' The old forms are still current among  
the people all over England and Scotland, though banished  
from books.

By him that all this world hath wrought,  
I had *liefer* thou wert a hog.

*Romance of Sir Guy of Warwick.*

Alle woman *lievest* would,  
Be sovereign of men's love.—*Gower.*

But be him *lief*, or be him loth,  
Unto the earth forth he go'th.—*Idem.*

And said anon with heavy cheer,  
We had *liefer* than all my kingdom dear,  
That I were fair out of this land.—*Romance of Sir Degoré.*

I had as *lief* the town-crier cried my lines.

*Shakespeare: Hamlet.*

I had as *lief* not be, as live to be  
In awe of such a thing as I myself.—*Shakespeare.*

Do not injure me so much as suppose I am a lawyer, I had as  
*lief* be a Scotchman.—*Junius.*

And he that wad *liefer* drink water,  
Shall never be stinted by me.—*Wagh's Lancashire Songs.*

**Lief**, dear.

Oft have I heard my *lief* Corydon report on a love day.

*Robert Greene, 1590.*

Had my swain been *lief* to me.—*Idem.*

**Lift**, the sky, the air, the atmosphere. This pure English word, though used in the north of England, and by the predecessors and contemporaries of Chaucer, has not yet succeeded in re-establishing itself in modern English literature. In Scottish song it is well known, and for the purpose of poetry is far more expressive and beautiful than any of its synonyms.

They had na sailed a league,  
A league, but barely three,  
When the *lift* grew dark, and the wind blew hard.

*Ballad of Sir Patrick Spens.*

It is the moon, I ken her horn,  
That's blinkin' in the *lift* sae hie.  
She smiles so sweet to wile us hame,  
But by my troth she'll wait a wee.—*Burns.*

Mr. Halliwell cites two instances of the use of this word from 'Cursus Mundi,' a MS. in the library of Trinity College, Cambridge :

Some in the earth, some in the *lift*,

and

Now at the earth, now at the *lift*.

In the 'Land of Cockayne,' quoted in 'Ellis's Specimens of Early English Poetry,' we find :

N' is there hawk nor foul so swift,  
Better fleeing by the *lift*.

**Ligge**, } from the German *liegen*, to lie down. This ancient  
**Ligged**, } word is still in common use in Cumberland and  
Northumberland, and also in the Border Counties of Scotland :

So that the Holy Ghost  
Gloweth but as a glade,  
Till that lele love  
*Ligge* on him.—*Piers Ploughman.*

What hawkes sitten on the perche above !  
What houndes *liggen* on the floor adown !

*Chaucer : The Knight's Tale.*

I have *ligged* for a fortnight in London, weak almost to death, and neglected by every one.—*G. P. R. James : Gowrie, or the King's Plot.*

**Limber,** } loose, flexible, pliant.  
**Limp,** }

And had I lived when song was greet,  
 And legs of trees were *limber*.—*Tennyson's Amphion*.

In America, *limber* is the most common form that the word assumes; though in New England, *limp* has been transformed into *limpsie* or *limsy*.

A story is told of a Virginian, who had made a considerable fortune in Nova Scotia, who was met in the railway car, hurrying southward, by a friend, who inquired if he had left the north altogether. 'Yes,' he replied, 'I am very ill; I wish to get home to die in the warm. I am frozen up. My bones are like icicles. I want to die *limber*.'

**Limmer**, a blackguard, a thief, a jade, still used in Scotland, but only applied to women. The word occurs in Chaucer, but means a 'hound,' possibly from the French *limier*, a blood-hound. In the Border Counties, as may be seen in the 'Border Minstrelsy,' it is a word of reproach applied to either sex.

What gart thee steal the Laird's Jocky horse,  
 And *limmer*, what gart thee steal him, quoth he.  
*Ballad of Dick of the Cow.*

His brother was hurt three days before,  
 With *limmer* thieves, that did him prick,  
 Nineteen bloody wounds lay him upon.—*Old Ballad.*

Ne'er mind how Fortune waft and warp,  
 Now comes the six and twentieth *simmer*,  
 I've seen the bud upon the *timmer*,  
 Still persecuted by the *limmer*,  
 Fra year to year.—*Burns: Epistle to Lapraik.*

What's that thou say'st, thou *limmer* loon?  
*Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border.*

The nurse was a false *limmer*,  
 As ever hung on tree.—*Ballad of Lambert Linkin.*

**Lin,** } a mere or pool of water on the moors or among the  
**Linn,** } mountains, of importance enough to be considered the  
 source of a river or brook. Drayton in the 'Polyolbion,'  
 describing the river Tivy, says:

Tivy cometh down from her capacious *lin*.

**Linn**—*continued*.

And in the same poem :

And therefore to recount her rivers from her *lins*.

In Scotland the word either signifies a fall or cataract, or the pool formed underneath it. Corra Linn on the Clyde, and the Lynn of Dee, are the two most noted for their beauty.

**Lin**, or *lins*. This termination to many Scottish words supplies a shade of meaning not to be expressed in English but by a periphrasis ; as *westlins*, inclining towards the west. *Aiblins*, perhaps ; from able-lins—inclining towards being able, or about to become possible. *Backlins*, inclining towards a retrograde movement.

The *westlin* wind blows loud and shrill.—*Burns*.

Now frae the east neuk o' Fife the dawn  
Speel'd *westlins* up the lift.

*Allan Ramsay : Christ's Kirk on the Green.*

**Linch**, to beat, or chastise, a northern English word, introduced into America as *lynch*. Judge *Lynch*, is a personification of the popular impulse to take summary vengeance upon a wrong-doer, and not to wait for the dilatory and customary forms of law.

**Ling**, heath, heather.

And he saw neither rich nor poor,  
But moss and *ling*, and bare wild moor.

*Romance of Sir Eger, Sir Grahame, and Sir Gray Steel.*

There was growing in that place where they were then encamped, very much of that kind of heath or *ling*, which the Scotch call heather.

*Holinshed's Historie of Scotland.*

**Lint**, flax, from the old English *linne*, whence also *linen*.

Little he was, and wore a breast-plate made of *linne*.

*Chapman's Homer.*

Lassie wi' the *lint* white locks.—*Burns*.

Her hair it was *lint* white,  
Her skin it was milk white.

*Hector Macneil : Saw ye my wee thing.*

**Lintie**, a linnet.

Dr. Norman Macleod mentioned a conversation he had with a Scottish emigrant in Canada, who in general terms spoke favourably of his position in his adopted country. 'But oh! sir,' he said, 'there are no *linties* in the woods and no braes like Yarrow.'—*Dean Ramsay*.

The word *lintie* conveys to my mind more of tenderness and endearment towards the little bird than linnet.—*Idem*.

**Lip-wise**, wise of talk or lip, as distinguished from wise in brain or thought.

**Lippen**, to rely or depend upon, to take a liking to.

Never *lippen* too much to a new friend or an old enemy.

You'll beguile none but those that *lippen* to you.

Ye may *lippen* to me, but look to yours.

*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

**Liss**, } pleasure, akin to bliss, and possibly the original form  
**Lisse**, } of that word.

Lord of life and of light,  
Of *lisse* and of payne.—*Piers Ploughman*.

*Lisse* without an ende.—*Idem*.

**Lite**, few, small; the diminutive of the word still survives as *little*.

**Lith**, movable property. 'Nor land nor *lith*,' neither real nor personal property, was once a common phrase, long since obsolete; see Halliwell's 'Archaic Dictionary.'

**Lithe**, calm, quiet, soft, tender, mild.

She tooke up her son to her,  
And happed it full *lithe*.—*MS. Cantab.*, quoted by Halliwell.

**Lithe-wort**, the forget-me-not.

**Lithesome**, } flexible.  
**Lissome**, }

**Lither**, wicked, lazy, wickedly idle.

Nay, therefore, care you not, quod Nicholas,  
A clerk hath *litherly* beset his while,  
But if he could a carpenter beguile.

*Chaucer: The Miller's Tale.*

And *lither* folke to destroyen vice.

*Chaucer: The Cuckoo and the Nightingale.*

**Lither**—*continued*.

Idleness most delectable to the flesh, which delighteth above measure in sloth and *litherness*.—*Northbrooke*, 1577 (*Halliwel*).

If he were as long as he is *lither*, he might thatch a house without a ladder.—*Cheshire Proverb*.

The dwarf was waspish, arch, and *litherly*.

*Sir W. Scott.*

**Lithy**, pliant, supple.

**Loathly**, loathsome.

**Lob**, to drop, to fall heavily on one side ; to avoid labour.

**Lob**, Gaelic, *lub*, a twist, a bend, a trick ; *lubaire*, a deceitful person, a fool, a clumsy person.

Farewell, thou *lob* of spirits.

*Shakespeare : Midsummer Night's Dream.*

**Lob-lolly**, a common colloquialism for a lazy fool ; a lolling fool.

**Lob's-pond**, a prison, a place of confinement for one who will not work.

**Lodesman**, a pilot.

**Lodemanage**, pilotage.

**Lodestar**, the Polar or leading star, by which ships were steered before the invention of the mariners' compass.

Your eyes are *lodestars*.

*Shakespeare : Midsummer Night's Dream.*

**Loft**, preterite of lift, whence a loft, something lifted upon the rest of the house ; and *aloft*, lifted on high.

The lark that sings *aloft*.

The sweet little cherub that sits up *aloft*,  
To keep watch for the life of poor Jack.

*Dibdin.*

**Lome**, frequent ; ' oft and lome,' is a common phrase in old English literature, equivalent to the modern, but less elegant expression, ' time and again.'

**Long-home**, the grave.

**Longsome**, tedious.

**Looby**, a man who lobs, or is unwilling to work.

**Loof**, the hollow of the hand. From the Gaelic *lamh*, pronounced *laf*, the hand.

Touch with my *lufe*.

*Townley Mysteries : quoted by Halliwell.*

See, here's my *loof*.—*Burns*.

**Loon**, a stupid lout, or clown.

The devil damn thee black, thou cream-faced loon.

*Shakespeare : Macbeth.*

**Looth**, shelter, a sheltered place.

**Lope**, preterite of leap.

Tom Rindle *lope* fra the chimley nook.

*Lancashire Songs, by Edwin Waugh.*

**Lorefather**, a man eminent for his erudition, or lore ; a teacher.

Of all men they do most evil,

Their *lorefather* is the devil.

*MS. Harleian, quoted by Halliwell.*

**Loresman**, a teacher.

**Lorel**, a dissolute person.

To love and live,  
As well *lorel* as lele.

*Piers Ploughman.*

Wolleward (miserable) and wetshod,  
Went I forth after,  
And yede forth like a *lorel*,  
All my life-time,  
Till I wox weary of the world.

*Piers Ploughman.*

**Lorn**, lost.

Who after that he had fain Una *lorne*.

*Spenser.*

This word survives in *forlorn*, utterly lost, or disconsolate, and in love-*lorn*, and lass-*lorn*.

**Losengerie**, flattery, lying.

In lecherie and *losengeries*,  
Ye liven and in sleuthe.

*Piers Ploughman.*

**Losengerie**—*continued*.

Lecherie, *losengerie*,  
 And lorels tales,  
 Gluttony and great othes,  
 This mirth they love.

*Piers Ploughman.*

**Lout,** } to make a curtsy, or an obeisance, to bow down.  
**Louten,** }

And then *louted* I down,  
 And he me leave granted.

*Creed of Piers Ploughman.*

To which image both yonge and olde,  
 Commanded he to *lout* and have in dread.

*Chaucer: The Monk's Tale.*

And I am *louted* by a traitor villain.

*Shakespeare: Henry VI., part I.*

They *louted* to that ladye.

*Percy's Reliques: On Alliterative Metre.*

From this verb comes the substantive, 'a lout,' an awkward, ungainly person, who makes an obeisance to a superior.

**Lovable,** } amiable.  
**Loveworthy,** }

**Lovesome,** amiable.

Oh, *lovesome* ladie bright!  
 How have ye fared since that ye were there?

*Chaucer: Troilus and Cresseide.*

**Lowe,** a heat, a flame, a blaze, whence *whitlow*, or *white heat*, a painful tumor on the finger.

Raise a great *lowe*.

*MS. Lincoln, quoted by Halliwell.*

The sacred *lowe* o' weel placed love,  
 Luxuriantly indulge it.

*Burns: Epistle to a young friend.*

**Lowlyhood,** } humility.  
**Lowlyness,** }

**Lown,** still, calm.

'Unbuckle your belt, Sir Roland,' she said,  
 'And set you safely down.'  
 'Oh, your chamber is very dark, fair maid,  
 And the night is wondrous *lown*.'



**Lown**—*continued*.

'Yes, dark, dark, is my secret bower,  
 And *lown* the midnight maybe,  
 But there's none waking in a' this tower,  
 But thou, true love, and me.'

*Ballad of Sir Roland, in Motherwell's Collection; supposed  
 to be quoted by Shakespeare in King Lear.*

'Keep *lowne*,' an old Border phrase; keep it secret;  
 keep it in the shady place; or, in the modern phrase, *keep  
 dark*.

Violets growing in the *lown*.

**Lubbard**, } a man who might work, but will not; applied by  
**Lubber**, } sailors in another sense to a landsman who does  
 not understand sea work, or does it awkwardly. Mr. Halli-  
 well quotes from 'The Burning of Paule's Church, 1563,' a  
 description of an abbey *lubber*, a person fed by the monks,  
 one that was idle, well fed; a lazy, lewd, *lither loiterer*; from  
 the same root as *lob*.

**Lug**, the ear; this word, common in Scotland, is colloquial in  
 the east of England, but almost obsolete in literature.

Can ye think your clumsy *lugs* so proper to decide as the delicate  
 ears of Justice Midas?—*Midas*.

If sorrow, the tyrant, unveil thy breast,  
 Draw out the foul fiend by the *lug*, the *lug*.

*Songs of the London Prentices and Trades, edited for the  
 Percy Society.*

**Lugsome**, heavy, cumbrous, difficult, to lug or drag along.

This *luggage* is a little too *lugsome*.

**Lum**, a chimney. 'The lang *lums* of Glasgow;' i.e., the tall  
 chimneys of the Glasgow cotton factories. This word is  
 common in Lancashire and the Northern counties.

**Lunch**, in Scottish phrase, a large piece of bread, cheese, beef,  
 &c., whence the modern English word 'lunch.' This meal  
 in Scotland is called a *piece*, the two words being synony-  
 mous.

**Lush**, juicy ; from the Gaelic *lus*, an herb, a succulent plant.

How *lush* and lusty the grass looks, how green.

*Shakespeare: The Tempest.*

The *lush* woodbine.—*Milton.*

The modern slang *lush*, signifying beer, wine, or other intoxicating drink, is probably derived from the adjective so effectively employed by Shakespeare and Milton.

**Lusk**, a lazy lubber.

Here is a great knave, a lither *lusk*, an idle lubber.

*Acclastus, 1540.*

**Luxome**, shiny.

**Lyart,** } from the Gaelic *liath*, grey ; a grey horse.  
**Liard,** }

This word occurs in the ‘Dictionary of the Oldest Words in the English Language,’ by Herbert Coleridge.

I may no longer lithe, quoth he,  
And *lyard* he pricked.

*Piers Ploughman.*

His *lyart* haffets ; (thin grey locks).

*Robert Burns.*

Twa had manteels o’ doleful black,  
But ane wi’ *lyart* lining.

*Burns: The Holy Fair.*

**Maffle**, to stammer, to stutter.

To stammer or *maffle* in speech.—*Florio*.

In such staggering and *maffling* wise.—*Holinshead*.

**Maker**, a poet; the Greek Πωιητης, and the Anglo-Saxon skope or scope;—a shaper or maker.

The most curious *maker* of them all (Ben Jonson),  
*Drayton's Elegies*.

**Malodorous**, having a bad smell.

**Mal-talent**, talent misapplied.

Great grudge and *mal-talent*.

*Spenser: Faerie Queene*.

**Malison**, a curse. The twin-word *benison*, a blessing, has been admitted into the English dictionaries, but *malison* is still excluded, although it was a recognised English word in the time of 'Piers Ploughman' and Chaucer.

Thus they serven Sathanas  
And soules beguileth  
Marchaunds of *malisons*.

*Piers Ploughman*.

The curse and *malesoun* of God.

*Archbishop Hamilton's Catechisme*.

I've won my mother's *malison*.

Coming this night to thee.

*Annan Water: Border Minstrelsy*.

This is a cuckold's *malison*.

John Anderson, my Jo.

*John Anderson, old version in the Convivial Songster, 1787*.

**Mammer**, to hesitate, to doubt.

I wonder in my soul,  
What you could ask me that I should deny,  
Or stand so *mammering* on.

*Shakespeare: Othello*.

Euphues perused this letter several times, being in a *mammering* how to answer.—*Lilly: Euphues to his England*.

**Mammoth**, a shred, a fragment.

*Mammoths* of stone.

*Optick Glass of Humours, 1639*.

**Manfulness**, virtue, or the fulness of manhood; the exact synonyme of the Latin and French *virtus* and *vertu*.

**Mantle**, to cream or sparkle like ale, wine, or effervescent waters.

**Many**. The peasantry in all parts of England say, 'there was a many.' Literature says, 'a *great* many,' or 'a *good* many.'

**Manymong**, } of many sorts, or mixtures.  
**Menemong**, }

*Menemong* corn bread.

*Piers Ploughman.*

**Mare**, a demon, or imp; whence night-mare.—*Halliwell.*

**Marrow**, a mate, equal, companion, sweetheart; anything fellow to, or exact counterpart of another.

Pore husbondes that have no *marrowes*.

*Hunting of the Hare.*

Thou took our sister to be thy wife,

But ne'er thocht her thy *marrow*.

*The Dowie Dens o' Yarrow.*

Busk ye! busk ye! my bonnie bonnie bride,

Busk ye, busk ye, my winsome *marrow*.

*William Hamilton, of Bangour: The Braes of Yarrow.*

One glove or shoe is *marrow* to another.

*MS. Landowne, quoted by Halliwell.*

None stood *unmarrow'd* save my Nan and me.

*Ewan Clark: Cumberland Ballads.*

Let Mons Meg and her *marrow* three volleys let flee.

For love of the bonnets of Bonnie Dundee.

*Bonnie Dundee, Sir Walter Scott.*

Meddle with your *marrow*; (i.e., hit one of your own size).

Your een are no *marrows*; (i.e., you squint).

Love and lordship like nae *marrow*.

*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

**Maser**, } a goblet.  
**Mazer**, }

A greater cuppe, brode and deepe, such as great *mazers* were wont to be.—*Cooper's Dictionary*, 1559.

**Masterful**, insolent, commanding, imperious.

A *masterful* beggar; i.e., an insolent beggar.

**Math**, a mowing.

**Maul**, a heavy hammer.

A man that beareth false witness against his neighbours, is a *maul*,  
and a sword, and a sharp arrow.

*Proverbs*, chap. xxv. verse 18.

**Maund**, a basket.

**Maunder**, to go about with a basket, begging.

*Maundering* for buttermilk.

*Beaumont and Fletcher.*

**Maup**, to gape about stupidly ; to 'moon.'

**Maups**, a silly girl ; a simpleton.

**Mavis**, the singing thrush, as distinguished from the missal thrush, or screech thrush ; a softer and more euphonious word than that now employed ; and formerly used by the best English writers, though now left wholly to the Scotch.

Crows, poppingayes, pyes, peacocks, and *mavis*.

*Ashmole*, 1652.

The swallow, martin, linnet, and the thrush,

The *mavis* that sings sweetly in the bush.

*Taylor*, 1630.

The thrush replies ; the *mavis* descant plays.

*Spenser: Epithalamium.*

When to the mirthful merle the warbling *mavis* sings.

*Drayton's Polyolbion.*

In vain to me, in glen or shaw,

The *mavis* and the lintwhite sing.

*Burns.*

'An eccentric divine discoursing on a class of persons who were obnoxious to him, concluded with this singular peroration : "Ma freens, it is as impossible for a *moderate* to enter into the kingdom of heaven, as for a soo (sow) to sit on the tap o' a thistle and sing like a *mavis*."'

*Illustrations of Scottish Life.*

**Maw**, the stomach. This word now signifies the stomach of birds and animals, but formerly signified that of the human species. 'Maw-bound,' says Mr. Halliwell, 'is a phrase common in Cheshire to express costiveness.'

**Mawks**, a slatternly, ignorant, stupid, and dirty young woman.

**May**, from the Anglo-Saxon *maeg*, a girl, a sweetheart, and not an abbreviation for poetical and rhyming purposes, as Bishop Percy supposed, of maid or maiden:

The fairest *may* she was that ever went,

Her like she has not left behind I weene.—*Spenser.*

**May**—*continued.*

Sir Caulyne loveth her best of all,  
 But nothing durst he say,  
 Ne descreeve his counsaile to no man,  
 But dearly he loved this *may*.

*Ballad of Sir Caulyne, Percy's Reliques.*

He gazed upon this bonnie *may*,  
 Fairer than Bell of Oronsay.—*The Dance of Ballochroy.*

**Mayhap,** } perhaps; a more purely English word than its  
**M'happen,** } modern synonyme, of which the first syllable is  
**Mayhappen,** } of Latin, and the second of Saxon derivation.

*M'happen* you thought it was me.—*Cumberland Ballads.*

**Maze**, to bewilder; whence amaze and amazement. 'A mazed man,' is a man so confused in his mind, as to be irresponsible for his actions.

**Mazy,** } giddy.  
**Meazy,** }

Somehow it made me *meazy*.—*Tim Bobbin.*

**Mazle**, to wander about from place to place, without plan or purpose.

**Meadmonth**, July.

**Meal**, from the German *mahl*, a time; and applied *par excellence*, to dinner-time, thence known as the *meal*, or time for eating. The Germans use ein *mahl*, once; zwei *mahl*, twice; drei *mahl*, thrice; and upwards to any number of times. In English the word, as distinguished from a repast, only survives in piece-meal, done by pieces at a time; and inch-meal, by inches at a time.

In 'Cymbeline,' the phrase occurs:

Oh! that I had her here, to tear her limb-meal; i.e., to tear her to pieces, a limb at a time.

**Meare,** } a boundary.  
**Meere,** }

**Meden**, to reward; from whence the modern substantive, 'meed,' reward.

And *medeth* men,  
 To maintayne his laws.—*Piers Ploughman.*

**Meere-brook**, a boundary brook.

**Meere-stone**, a boundary stone.

**Meere-tree**, a boundary tree.

That on the Cambrian side,  
Doth Shropshire as a *meare* from Hereford divide.  
*Drayton's Polyolbion.*

**Meikle**,  
**Mickle**, } great; a word common to all the midland and  
**Muckle**, } north of England, and to Scotland.

The name of an honest woman is *muckle* worth.

*Meikle* water runs by, that the miller knows nothing of.

Better be blythe with little, than sad with *muckle*.

A proud heart wi' a poor purse, has *muckle* dolor to dree (endure).

A wee spark may make *muckle* wark.

*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

Oh *muckle* thinks my love o' my beauty.—*Burns*.

**Melch**, mild, soft, wet (applied to the weather).

**Mell**, to mix or mingle (French, *meler*).

**Mell-sylvester**, the honeysuckle.

**Meniality**, domestic servants, menials.

**Merle**, the blackbird.

To walk and take the dew by it was day,  
And hear the *merle* and mavis.

*Chaucer: The Complaint of Cresside.*

The mavis it made myrth for to mock the *merle*.

*Complaint of Scotland.*

The *merle* upon her myrtle perch,

There to the mavis sings,

Who from the top of some curl'd birch,

Those notes redoubled rings.—*Drayton's Elysium.*

**Mereswine**, sea-swine, the porpoise.

**Meth**, courteous, mild.

Thou wast meek and *meth*,

A maiden mild.—*MS. Lincoln, quoted by Halliwell.*

All that was menyie mild and *meth*,

Went with him to Nazereth.—*Cursor Mundi, Trin. Col. Cam.*

**Mever**, bashful.

**Meverly**, bashfully.

**Mezzel**, the leprosy.

**Mezzly**, blotchy.

**Mevy**, the gull, the sea-mew.

About his sides a thousand sea gulls trod,  
The *mevy* and the halcyon.—*Brown's Britannia's Pastorals*.

**Mich** or **Meech**, to skulk, act by stealth, or indulge in secret amours.

**Micher**, a truant or skulker ; a clandestine lover.

Examples of the use of these words are frequent in Shakespeare, and contemporary authors. In 'Euphues,' as quoted in Nares' 'Glossary,' is the passage : 'What made the gods so often to truant from heaven and *mich* here on earth?' In 'Henry IV.' Part i., is the passage, put into the mouth of Falstaff : 'Shall the blessed sun of heaven prove a *micher*, and eat blackberries?'

The 'Scornful Lady,' of Beaumont and Fletcher, has,

Sure she has  
Some *meeching* rascal in the house.

Spenser in his account of Ireland, has the passage : 'Lest any of them should straggle up and down the country, or *mich* in corners among their friends idly.' Chaucer speaks of a '*micher* forsworn ;' and Gower of *micherie* and *miching*. In Selby's 'Mother Bombie,' 1594, quoted by Halliwell, we find, 'How like a *micher* he stands, as if he had truanted from poverty.'

*Miché* est un particulier qui a du *michon*, ou de l'argent ; un individu qui paye les faveurs des filles.

Ces jeunes demoiselles  
Pour paraître plus belles  
Aux yeux des *michés*.

*Francisque Michel : Dictionnaire d'Argot Français.*

In Kent and Sussex, *meech* is still a common word to express the stealthy creeping of a cat after its prey.

**Midden**, a provincial word in common use, not admitted into the dictionaries—a dunghill.

**Midden crow**, a carrion crow.

**Midmorn**, nine in the morning.

**Midafternoon**, }  
**Midovernoon**, } three in the afternoon.



**Midwinter**, Christmas.

**Miff**, a slight fit of ill-temper.

**Mildhood**, mildness.

**Milth**, to pity, or pardon, or feel compassion for.

**Milthe**, softness, mercifulness.

**Mim**, from the Gaelic *min*, soft ; prudish, prim, and discreetly silent, applied only to women ; or contemptuously to effeminate men, as in the phrase, 'He's as *mim* as a maiden.' In this sense the word is distinguished from *mum*, which means silent, or secret only, without reference to sex, as in the current slang, '*mum's* the word.' Shakespeare says, 'the citizens are *mum* ;' and Master Slender in the 'Merry Wives of Windsor,' complains that he went to the pretended Anne Page, and cried *mum*, and she cried *budget* as appointed. The word *mim* has a meaning of its own, which should preserve it in the language. It is derived by some authorities from the Greek *mimoe*, to imitate by action without speaking ; whence mimicry, mimic, and pantomime.

And now came the night o' feet washing,  
And Bessie looked *mim* and scarce.

*Jamieson's Popular Ballads.*

Now Nancy all the while was playing prim,  
As any lamb as modest ; and as *mim*.—*Ross's Helenore.*

To market ride the gentlemen,

So do we, so do we,

Then comes the country clown,

Hobbledy gee !

First go the ladies, *mini, mim, mim* ;

Next come the gentlemen, trim, trim, trim ;

Then comes the country clown,

Gallop a trot, trot, trot.—*Nursery Rhymes of England.*

Maidens should be *mim* till they're married.

*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

*Mim-mou'd Meg* ; (i.e., gentle or primly-mouthed Meg.)

*Burns.*

**Ming**, to mix ; whence the diminutive *mingle*, to mix in small quantities. The Americans have the phrase '*mung*' news, using the ancient preterite of *ming*—signifying news that is contradictory, or truth mixed up with falsehood.

The busy bee her honey now she *mings*.

*Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey.*

*Ming* his pride and poverty.

*Kendall's Poems, 1577.*

**Mint,** } to essay, to try, to aim, to attempt, to prove the  
**Minted,** } genuineness of metals before coinage.

*Minting's* not making (attempting's not doing).

*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

A *minted* [attempted] excuse.

*The Two Lancashire Lovers, 1660.*

The word remains in Mint—the Assay Office.

**Miredrum,** the bittern.

**Mirk,** } dark, gloomy. This word has for upwards of a cen-  
**Murk,** } tury been almost wholly abandoned to the use of  
 Scottish writers, although Shakespeare, Spenser, and Milton  
 have rendered it classic English.

Twice in *mirk* and occidental damp,  
 Moist Hesperus hath quenched her sleepy lamp.

*Shakespeare: All's Well that Ends Well.*

Then to her iron waggon she betakes,  
 And with her bears the foul, well-favoured witch,  
 Through *mirk*some air her ready way she makes.

*Spenser's Faerie Queene.*

So scented the grim feature and upturned  
 His nostril wide into the *mirky* air;  
 Sagacious of his quarry from afar.

*Milton's Paradise Lost.*

**Mirkshade,** the evening, twilight, the gloaming.

Erroneously printed in Halliwell's 'Archaic Dictionary' as  
*muck-shade*, and by Grose as *muck-shut*.

**Mirthen,** to grow mirthful, to make merry.

And as the wick and fire  
 Will make a warm flame,  
 For to *mirthen* me now,  
 That in the dark sitten.

*Piers Ploughman.*

**Mither,** to perplex, confuse, bewilder.

**Mithers,** perplexing. To be in the mithers, to know not what  
 to do.

**Miss,** to go wrong. To do *amiss*, to do a wrong, or to act  
 wrongfully. To miss the way, to go the wrong way. As  
 a prefix, this syllable might be made to accommodate itself  
 to every active verb in the language, but is not employed to

**Miss**—*continued.*

the same extent among us, as it was in the youth of our literature. We have still such words as misfit, misgovern, misjudge, misinterpret, misname, miscall, misplace, misplead, mismanage, mislead, misprint, &c. ; but many very convenient and expressive words, in which the prefix was formerly employed, have dropped out of books and conversation. Free-thinker, for instance, is a word that would be much better rendered by *misthinker*, or one who thinks wrongly.

**Misbelieve.**

That lewed man in *misbelief* lie and die.

*Piers Ploughman.*

*Misbelief* and false suspicion,  
Have truth brought to his damnation.

*Chaucer.*

And coming to her son 'gan first to scold,  
And chide at him that made her *misbelieve*.

*Spenser.*

And heard the hooded fathers mumbling charms,  
That made those *misbelievers* man and wife.

*Dryden.*

**Mischoose.**

We *mischoose* the day.

*Stow's Annals.*

**Misdeem**, to judge erroneously.

He who misconceiveth, oft *misdeemeth*.

*Chaucer.*

**Misdo.** Misdeed remains in common use, but the verb *misdo*, to do wrong, is seldom employed. In modern phrase we say, 'I have done it wrongly, or badly,' instead of 'I have misdone it.'

**Misexpense**, unwise expense, prodigality, reckless expenditure, money wrongly applied.

**Misfall**, to happen, or befall wrongly, or unfortunately.

Thereat she 'gan to triumph with great boast,  
And to upbraid that chance which him *misfell*.

*Spenser.*

**Misfare**, to fare or go ill, or wrong.

Their own *misfaring* will not see.

*Colin Clout's come home again.*

**Misgang**, a failure, a going wrong.

**Misgo**, to go wrong, or to the wrong place.

Alas! quo' she, I had almost *misgone*.

I had almost gone to the clerks bedde.

*Chaucer: The Reve's Tale.*

**Mislike**, to have no favourable inclination; less positive than *dislike*.

Setting your scorn and your *mislike* aside,

Tell me some reason why the Lady Gray

Should not become my wife, and England's queen.

*Shakespeare: Henry VI.*

**Mislive**, to lead a wicked life.

If he *mislive* in lewdness and lust,

Little bootes all the wealth and the trust,

That his father left by inheritance.

*Spenser: Shepherd's Calendar.*

**Misproud**, proud for a wrong reason, or in a wrong cause.

Impairing Henry, strengthening *misproud* York.

*Shakespeare: Henry VI.*

**Misthink**, to think wrongfully.

But I with better reason him avized,

And show'd him how, through error and *misthought*,

Of our like persons, each to be disguised,

Or his exchange a freedom might be wrought.

*Spenser: Faerie Queene.*

**Mith**, power, might. Mr. Halliwell says the word is still in use, but gives no quotation. It would be useful as a rhyme.

**Mithe**, to conceal.

**Mixen**, a dunghill.

**Moble**, to cover with a veil.

The *mobled* queen.

*Shakespeare: Hamlet.*

The moon doth *moble* up herself.

*Shirley's Merchant of Venice.*

Their heads and faces are *mobled* in fine linen.

*Sandys.*

**Mow,** } to distort the mouth in scorn, to make grimaces ; from  
**Moe,** } the French 'faire la moue.'

Unto his mother they complained,  
 Which grieved her to heare ;  
 And for these pranks she threatened him  
 He should have whipping cheer,  
 If that he did not leave his tricks,  
 His jeering mocks and *mows*.

*The Merry Puck, quoted by Halliwell.*

Sometimes like apes that *moe* and chatter at me,  
 And after bite me.

*Shakespeare: The Tempest.*

*Mows* may come to earnest.

*Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

**Moffle**, to spoil work, to do anything badly, and without knowledge.

**Moider,** }  
**Moither,** } to confuse, perplex, distract, bewilder.

I have been strangely *moidered* e'er sin' about this same news o' the French king. I canna believe 'tis true.

*Nares: Wit of a Woman.*

**Moidery**, confused, thick, from whence *moithery* and *mothery*, turbid ; applied to liquors.

It is not enough to make the clearest liquor in the world both feculent and *mothery*.—*Tristram Shandy*.

As touching the *mother* or lees of olive oil.

*Holland: Translation of Pliny.*

They oint their naked limbs with *mother'd* oil.—*Dryden: Virgil.*

**Mole**, a spot on the face or skin ; formerly any kind of spot on a garment, or piece of furniture.

Thy best coat

Hath many *moles* and spottes.—*Piers Ploughman.*

**Molt**, preterite of 'melt ;' whence the past participle molten ; as 'molten gold,' 'molten metal.'

**Molt-water**, drops of perspiration.

**Moly**, a plant known only to the poets, who ascribed to it fabulous virtues. It is known to general readers by the allusion in Milton's 'Comus'.—*Nares*.

The herb *moly* hath a flower as white as snow, and a root as black as ink.—*Lilly's Euphues*.

**Mome**, a stupid or silly person, a blockhead.

Parnassus is not clomb,  
By every such *mome*.—*Drayton*.

I dare be bold awhile to play the *mome*.

*Mirror for Magistrates.*

**Mong**, preterite of ming, mingled; whence the preposition *among*, i.e., mingled with.

**Monger**, a retail dealer or mixer; formerly applied to every one who traded, whatever was the article he sold or mixed. The word remains in *ironmonger*, *cheesemonger*, *costermonger*, *tripemonger*; and might be advantageously combined with money, as *moneymonger*, a dealer in gold and silver; and with slander, as a *slandermonger*, a retailer of scandals.

**Moon**, to drivel, to talk in a crazy manner.

**Moonflaw**, the wild fancy of a lunatic.

I fear she has a *moonflaw* in her brains,  
She chides and fights that none can look on her.—*Nares*.

**Moonling**, a lunatic.

I have a husband and a two-legged one,  
But such a *moonling*!—*Ben Jonson*.

**Moony**, silly, affected by the moon.

**Mop**, } a young girl. In the west of England, a fair to  
**Moppet**, } which young girls resort, to be hired for domestic or  
farm service, is still called a *mop*.

**Mopsey**, a slovenly girl.

**Mortling**, an animal found on the fields, woods, or moors,  
still-born, or dead of disease.

A wretched withered *mortling*, and a piece of carrion.—*Nares*.

**Mosie**, rough like the beard, hairy.

**Most**, an augmentation of the superlative, used with great effect by Shakespeare and the writers of his time.

I love thee best, oh, *most* best, believe it.—*Hamlet*.

To take the basest and *most* poorest shape.—*King Lear*.

**Mote**, } the original preterite of meet, to assemble, afterwards  
**Moot**, } superseded by *met*. The word survives in *Wittenage-*  
*mote*, the meeting of the wise men; and in the verb to *moot*  
a question; i.e., to raise a question that only can be decided  
by public meeting or discussion. A Town Hall was formerly  
a *moot* house; and is thus rendered in Wickliffe's Bible.

**Mother-naked**, stark or utterly naked, naked as a new-born babe.

They'll shape me in your arms, Janet,  
A dove, but and a swan,  
And last they'll shape me in your arms,  
A *mother-naked* man ;  
Cast your green mantle over me,  
I'll be myself again.

*The Young Tamlane: Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border.*

**Mother-tongue**, native language.

**Mother-wit**, innate ability.

**Moudy**, a mole-catcher.

**Moudy-hill**, a mole-hill.

**Moudy-rat**, a mole ; from mouldy-rat ; a rat of the mould.

**Moudy-warp**, a mole ; one that *warps* or throws up the mould.

**Moulder**, the toll or tax taken by a miller for grinding corn.

The quaker's wife got up to bake,  
Her children all about her,  
She gave them every one a cake,  
And the miller wants his *moulder*.

*Nursery Rhymes of England.*

It's good to be merry and wise,  
Quoth the miller, when he *mouldered* twice.

*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

**Mournival**, from the Gaelic *muirn*, hospitable, a term at cards ; to have four of any of the court cards in one's hand, or to hold four aces.

It can be no treason to drink and sing,  
A *mournival* of healths to our new crowned king.

*Brome's Cavalier Song on the Restoration of Charles II.*

**Mow-land**, grass-land ; meadow-land that may be mowed, or *mown*.

**Mowen**,  
or  
**Mowe**, } to be able ; infinitive of 'may.'

'Thou shalt not *mowe* suffer,' i.e., thou shalt not be able to suffer.

**Moy**, moist.

Mild and moy.—*Evergreen*, by Allan Ramsay.

**Mulch**, straw which is half rotten, and saturated for manure.

**Mung**, preterite of ming, to ming or mingle ; when the substantive meaning the mingled food of bread, potatoes, &c., thrown to poultry. See *Ming* and *Mong*.

**Murch**, mischief ; (a Devonshire word). 'The Old Murcher,' the devil.

**Murchy**, mischievous.

**Murge**, to rejoice.

In May it *murgeth*.

*Advice to the Fair Sex: Ritson's Ancient Songs and Ballads.*

**Murne**, mournful, sorrowful.

**Murr**, a cold in the head ; the influenza ; whence perhaps *murrain*, the ancient name of the rinderpest or cattle plague.

The *murr*, the headache ; the catarrh, the bone-ache.

*Chapman's Mons. D'Olive.*

Deaf ears, blind eyes, the palsy, gout, and *murr*.

*Rowland, 1613.*

**Murrain**, the cattle plague.

**Mush**, preterite of mash ; to reduce to a consistency ; or, as the English cookery books, derived from the French, say, to make a *purée*. In America, porridge either of oatmeal or of Indian corn, rice, beans, peas, or other vegetable, is called *mush*. The word is current in the north of England.

**Muss**, a scramble, a confusion, a difficulty. This word, though little used in England, is common in America.

Of late when I cry'd ho !

Like boys unto a *muss*, kings would start forth

And cry—Your will ?

*Shakespeare: Antony and Cleopatra.*

Striving as children play at *muss*.—*Florio.*



**Nab**, the top, or head ; the same as *Knabb*—*q. v.*

**Nake**, } to denude of covering.—The preterite survives as  
**Naked**, } an adjective ; the infinitive is lost.

Come, be ready ! *nake* your swords.

Think of your wrongs !

*Nares R.venge's Tragedy.*

**Nantle**, to fondle, to caress.

**Napery**, table linen ; from the French *nappe*, a table-cloth ; whence also *Napier*, the patronymic of a very distinguished family, and synonymous with '*draper*.' From this word also is *napkin*, a little cloth.

**Nappy**, comfortable, sleepy, predisposing one to 'nap,' hence applied to ale and strong beer. This word is sometimes written *noppy* and *nobby*, as derived from *nob*, the head ; whence it is applied to liquor that mounts into the head, and which is, as the French say of Burgundy wine, *capiteux*.

With *nappy* beer I to the barn repaired.—*Gay*.

Care, mad to see a man so happy,  
 E'en drowned himself among the *nappy*.

*Burns : Tam o' Shanter.*

While we sit bousing at the *nappy*,  
 And getting fou' and unco happy.—*Idem*.

Twa bottles of as *nappy* liquor,  
 As ever reamed in horn or bicker.

*Ramsay : The Monk and the Miller's Wife.*

**Nash**, chilly ; a Wiltshire word.

**Nast**, dirt, filth, whence the adjective, nasty.

**Nay**, a negative, to be distinguished from *No* by many delicate shades of meaning. *No*, supposes will, or pre-judgment. *Nay*, supposes error, or something to be argued out.

Will you marry me ? *No*. Are two and three six ? *Nay*. Was Mahomet a true prophet ? *No*, or *nay*. Both may be said. The one negative excludes argument, the other permits it.

**Nay-word**, a denial.

**Ne.** This form of negative was formerly prefixed to all verbs beginning with a vowel or an aspirate. Chaucer uses *n'adde* for *ne hadde*, or had not; *n'is* for *ne is*, or is not; *n'am* for *ne am*, or am not; *n'ere* for *ne were*, or were not; and *n'ist* for *ne wist*, or wist not. Prefixed to will, it became *nil*, *noleo*, *ne will*, to will not, to be unwilling; whence the phrase, *willy nilly*, or *nolens volens*.

*Nylling* to dwell where sin is wrought,  
Ashmole, 1652.

Their answers were nought for to hide,  
They *nolde* be of his assent.

*Morte Arthur.*

And *nolde* call herself none other name.  
*Lydgate, MS. Soc. Antiq.*

Harme *nolde* he do none.  
*Chron. Vilodun, quoted by Halliwell.*

Will you, *nill* you, I will marry you.  
*Shakespeare.*

I *nill* thine offered grace.  
*Spenser.*

In scorn or friendship *nill* I construe whether.  
*Shakespeare: Poems.*

Unto the founts Diana *nild* repair.  
*Robert Greenc: Never too late, 1590.*

Wesley attempted to revive *nill*, and wrote:

Man wills something, because it is pleasing to him; and *nills* something, because it is painful to nature.

*Lectures on the English Language, by G. P. Marsh.*

**Neap,** } a turnip. French, *navet*; Gaelic, *neip*. Mr. Halliwell  
**Neep,** } quotes this word as used in Cornwall. In Scottish popular parlance its use is universal. Whence the first syllable in the ordinary English word was derived, and when it was added, is difficult to discover.

A story is told of a late Lord Justice-Clerk, that when out in pursuit of game, and passing through a turnip-field, he was rudely hailed by the farmer to 'come out o' that.' His Lordship, not liking to be addressed in this disrespectful manner, asked the angry man if he knew to whom he was speaking. 'No, I dinna.' 'Well, I'm the Lord Justice-Clerk.' 'I dinna care whose *clerk* ye are; but ye'se come out o' my *neeps*.'

**Neb**, the nose, a beak, a bird's bill ; old English, *nebbe*.

How she holds up the *neb*, the bill to him,  
And arms her with the boldness of a wife.

*Shakespeare: Winter's Tale.*

Turn your *neb* northwards, and settle for a while at St. Andrews.—  
*Scott: The Fortunes of Nigel.*

**Neck-weed**, hemp ; a metaphorical expression for a rope. †

**Needed**, the preterite of need is still used in such phrases as, 'he needed assistance ;' but is being superseded by the present tense of the verb, in such instances as, 'I told him he *need* not do it.' To avoid this incorrectness, a periphrase is often employed: 'I told him it was not necessary that he should do it.'

**Neeze**, to snort ; as distinguished from sneeze.

By his (the Leviathan's) *neezing*, a light doth shine.

*Job*, chap. xii., verse 18.

And then the whole quire hold their hips and laugh,  
And *yexen* (hiccough) in their mirth and *neeze* and swear.

*Shakespeare: Midsummer Night's Dream.*

**Neist**, the next, or nearest. Mr. Halliwell quotes this word as current in Devonshire.

The present moment is our own,  
The *neist* we never saw.—*Burns.*

**Nesh**, fresh, tender, delicate, soft ; applied to vegetables, fruit and foliage. Nice, which is now used in the sense of nesh, originally meant, silly, affected, foolish, from the French *niais*.

The darker fir, light ash, and the *nesh* tops of the young hazel.  
*Crowe's Lewesdon Hill.*

Take the root of horsehelme and seethe it long in water, and then take the *nescheste* thereof.

*MS. Lincoln, quoted by Halliwell.*

Never-a-dele, not a bit, never a bit—none in the least.

Be it right or wrong, these men among  
Of women do complain,  
Affirming this, how that it is  
A labor spent in vain  
To love them well, for *never-a-dele*,  
They love a man again.

*The Nut Brown Maid.*

Niderling, a little, mean, inhospitable person.

Niding, a low, mean, contemptible person ; formerly the most opprobrious word that could be applied to anybody.

When there was a dangerous rebellion against King William Rufus, he proclaimed that all subjects should repair to his camp, upon no other penalty but that, whoever refused to come, should be reputed a *niding*. \* \* \* The people swarmed to him immediately from all sides.—*Camden's Remains*.

He is a *niding*, the pulse of whose soul beats but faintly towards heaven.—*Howell, quoted by Nares*.

Nieve, the fist, the closed hand.

He hasna as muckle sense as a cow could haud in her *nieve*.—*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs*.

Mark the rustic, haggis-fed,  
The trembling earth resounds his tread,  
Clap in his walie *nieve* a blade,  
He'll mak' it whistle ;  
An' legs an' arms an' heads will sned  
Like taps o' thrissle.

*Burns : To a Haggis.*

Nieveful, as much as the closed hand or *nieve* will contain.

Nievil, } a blow with the *nieve* or fist.  
Nevil, }

Niffer, to exchange.

Ye shall na be *niffered* but for a better.

It's no easy to *niffer* you for anything worse.

*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

You see your state with theirs compared,  
And shudder at the *niffer*.

*Burns : Address to the unco guid and rigidly righteous.*

**Nightertale**, the night time; the whole night long.

His men come by *nightertale*,  
With them away his body stale.

*Cursor Mundi*: MS. Trin. Col. Cantab. (quoted by Halliwell).

By *nightertale* he was slain by King Darius.

MS. Soc. Antiq.

The nightingale,  
Within a temple shapen hawthorn wise,  
He might not slepe in all the *nightertale*.

Chaucer: *Court of Love*.

**Nim**, to take; German, *nehmen*.

Fetchen I wolde of my next neighbour,  
And *ninnen* of his earth.

*Piers Ploughman*.

**Nimster**, a thief.

Shakespeare probably had the word *Nim* in his mind when  
he invented and named the famous Corporal 'Nym.'

**Ninniver**, the white water-lily.

**Ninny-watch**, the expectation of a fool; a vain, over-sanguine  
hope.

Nithe, }  
Nythe, } wickedness.

In pride and treachery,  
In *nithe* and lechery.

*Cursor Mundi* MS. (quoted by Halliwell.)

**Noggle**, to walk awkwardly.

Noiles, }  
Noils, } coarse and inferior knots in wool.  
Noyls, }

By a statute of James I., no one was permitted to put *noyles* into  
woollen cloth.—Halliwell.

**Nones**, the hours midway between noon and sunset.

That eten nought but at *nones*.—*Piers Ploughman*.

**Noonscape**, the escape from work at noon; when day-labourers  
dine and take a rest.

**Noonshun**, the meal taken at noonscape; whence *nuncheon*, a  
lunch.

Harvest folk with curds and clotted cream,  
On sheaves of corn were at their *noonshun* dose.

*Browne's Britannia's Pastorals*.

**Noncheon,** } a lunch, or mid-day refreshment; the same as  
**Nuncheon,** } *noonshun*.

**Nope,** the bullfinch.

The sparrow, the *nope*, the redbreast, and the wren.

*Drayton's Polyolbion.*

**Nori,** }  
**Nouri,** } a foster child.

For my lord's daughter she is,

And I, his *nori*, forsooth, I was.—*Guy of Warwick.*

**Noughty,** having nought, poor, possessed of nothing.

**Nover,** high, arable land, above a steep bank.

**Nowl,** the head of an animal, as distinguished from that of a man.

An ass's *nowl* I fixed upon his head.

*Shakespeare: Midsummer Night's Dream.*

**Nowte,** horned cattle; corrupted in modern English into neat.

*Nowte geld*, was the name formerly given in the north to a cornage, or tax upon cattle.

Mischief begins with needles and pins, and ends with horned *nowte*.

*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

And in your lug, most reverend James,

To hear you roar and rowte,

Few men of sense will doubt your claims

To rank among the *nowte*.

*Burns: Epistle to the Rev. James Stevens.*

Goodly *nowt* both fat and big with bone.

*Nares' English Glossary.*

Lord Seafeld, who was accused by his brother of accepting a bribe to vote for the union betwixt England and Scotland, endeavoured to retort upon him by calling him a cattle-dealer. 'Ay, weel,' replied his brother, 'better sell *nowte* than nations.'

**Noy,** annoyance.

With little *noy* they can convoy,

A matter finally.

*Ramsay.*

**Nub,** from nieve, the fist.

**Nubble,** to bruise with the fist.

**Nubbly,** } large and rounded like the fist ; a *nubbly* piece of  
**Knubbly,** } bread.

**Nug,** a rude, unshapen piece of timber, a block (*Halliwell*),  
 whence perhaps the modern word nugget, a little nug (of  
 gold), first introduced or re-introduced into the language by  
 the gold miners of Australia.

**Nurly,** } lumpy, knotty ; whence, metaphorically, cross-  
**Gnurly,** } grained, and ill-tempered.

**Obdure,** to become obdurate.

Senseless of good ; as stones they soone *obdure*.

*Heywood*, 1609.

**Oke,** preterite of ache, or ake. My head aches, and my head  
*oke* (ached).

**Olyte,** diligent. Mr. Halliwell quotes an English use of this  
 word, from the Harleian MSS., without defining its meaning.  
 The word is common in the Border counties of England and  
 Scotland.

An *olyte* mother makes a lazy daughter.

*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

**Ooth,** raging mad ; from the German *wuth*, and the Scottish  
*wud*.

**Ope-tide,** } the early spring, or time when the buds begin to  
**Opentide,** } open.

So lavish *ope-tide*,

Causeth fasting Lents.—*Nares*.

**Ord,** from the Gaelic *ard*, sometimes written *ord* ; a headland  
 or promontory, as the *Ord* of Caithness ; *Ardnamurchan*,  
 &c. ‘In Suffolk,’ says Mr. Halliwell, ‘a promontory is called  
 an *ord*.’ The word has also the sense of a beginning, or a  
 point.

And touched him with the spear’s *ord*.—*Romance of Sir Otuel*.

Saul drew his sword,

And ran even upon the *ord*.

*Cursor Mundi* : *Trin. Col. Cam.*, quoted by Halliwell.

**Orlings,** the teeth of a comb.

**Orra**, all sorts of odds and ends, occasional.

When Donald Caird fand *orra* things.—*Sir Walter Scott*.

She's a weel-educate woman, and if she win to her English as I hae heard her do at *orra* times, she may come to fickle us a'.

*Scott: The Antiquary.*

**Orts,**  
**Ortings,** } scraps, fragments, leavings.  
**Ortins,** }

Let him have time a beggars *orts* to crave.—*Shakespeare*.

**Ouph**, modernized and corrupted into *oaf*, a sprite, or goblin, less elegant, gentle, and prepossessing in appearance than a fairy.

Urchins, *oupes*, and fairies green and white.

*Shakespeare: Merry Wives of Windsor.*

**Ourie**, shivering in the cold.

I thought me on the *ourie* cattle.—*Burns: A Winter Night*.

**Outen**, strange, foreign; from without.

**Outener**, a foreigner.

**Outrope**, a sale by auction. This word survives in Scotland as *roup*, and is derived from the German *rufen*, to call or cry; and *ausrufen*, to cry out.

As at common *outropes*, when household stuffe is to be solde, they cry who gives more?—*Dekker*, 1608.

**Overcraft**, deceit, too much craftiness.

**Overcrafty**, deceitful.

**Overdreep**. Mr. Halliwell explains this word to mean overshadow. In the northern and Scottish counties, *dreep* is to drip with moisture. The quotation given is:

The aspiring nettles with their shady tops shall no longer *overdreep* the best herbs.—*Pierce Penniless*.

The true meaning seems to be overdrip, and not overshadow.

**Overhope**, sanguineness.

**Overhopeful**, sanguine, enthusiastic.

**Overname**, to call over names in a series.

I pray thee *overnam* them.—*Shakespeare*.

**Overseethe**, from *seethe* to boil; to boil over.



**Oversodden**, boiled over.

**Overthwart**, opposite to, across.

Our *overthwart* neighbours.—*Dryden*.

He laid a plank *overthwart* the brook.—*Jonson*.

**Overtimely**, premature, too early.

**Overword**,  
**O'erword**,  
**O'ercome**,  
**Owerword**,

{ the chorus, burden, leading idea, or repeated  
 { phrase of a song or ballad.

And aye the *o'ercome* o' his sang,  
 Was wae's me for Prince Charlie.—*Jacobite Ballad*.

And aye the *o'erword* o' their sang,  
 Was 'our wee, wee man's been lang awa'.

*Border Minstrelsy*.

And aye the *o'erword* o' her sang,  
 Was 'o'er the muir amang the heather.'

*Jean Glover, Scottish Song*.

**Overworn**, worn out with toil or care.

The *o'erworn* widow.—*Shakespeare*.

**Owzell**, the blackbird ; the word is used in Massinger, and is current through the north of England and Scotland.

House doves are white, and *owsells* blackbirds be.

*The Affectionate Shepherd, 1594*.

The *owzel-cock* so black of hue,  
 With orange tawny bill.

*Shakespeare: Midsummer Night's Dream*.

**Oxter**, the arm-pit.

**Oxy**, wet, spongy, morassy, boggy ; applied to land.

**Oye**, a grandchild. From the Gaelic *oige*, youth, and *og*, young.

**Paigle**, a cowslip.

Blue bells, hare bells, *paigles*, pansies.—*Ben Jonson*.

**Paltoke**, a cloak, or upper garment; the modern *paletot*.  
Gaelic *pealltag*, a cloak.

Proud priests came with him,

More than a thousand,

In *paletokes* and pyked shoon.—*Piers Ploughman*.

**Pantler**, the servant in a great household, whose business it is to attend to the bread, as it is that of a butler to attend to the wine.

He would have made a good *pantler*, he would have chipped bread well.—*Shakespeare: Henry IV.*

I will presently take orders with the cook, *pantler*, and butler.

*The Jovial Crew.*

**Parget**, to plaister or besprinkle a wall; from *spargere*, with the elision of the initial, as in *parmecetty*, a vulgar corruption of *spermacetti*, and peckled for speckled. 'Applied metaphorically,' says Nares, 'to face painting.'

She's above fifty-two, and *pargets*.—*Ben Jonson*.

**Passing**, very, exceedingly; an abbreviation of surpassing, as in the common phrase, 'tis *passing* strange.'

For Oberon is *passing* fell; (surpassingly sharp-tempered and bitter.)  
*Shakespeare: Midsummer Night's Dream.*

**Pat**, preterite of put.

The lass *pat* on her satin gown.—*Aberdeenshire Ballad*.

**Patch**, a fool; whence the common phrase cross-*patch*, an ill-natured fool.—*Nares*.

The *patch* is kind enough, but a huge feeder.

*Shakespeare: Merchant of Venice.*

Call me *patch* and puppy, and beat me if you please.

*Beaumont and Fletcher.*

**Pautch**, to walk painfully in deep mud.

**Pawky**, witty, sly, and humourous, in speech or action, but without any evil intention. Modern English has no synonyme for this Northern and Scottish word. In Suffolk, according to Mr. Halliwell, *pawky* means awkward. The modern vulgarism, 'to *poke* fun,' may possibly afford a clue to the original derivation.

**Pawky**—*continued.*

The *pawky* auld carle came over the lea,  
 Wi' mony gude e'ens and gude days to me,  
 Says, Gude wife, for your courtesie,  
 Will you lodge a silly poor man?

*The Gaberlunzie Man.*

In an article on 'Worcester Cathedral,' in the *Saturday Review*, June 9, 1866, the restorations are described as 'meagre, *pawky*, and vapid.' What could the writer mean by *pawky* in this instance? Possibly the word was a printer's error for *paltry*.

**Peason, peas.** Formerly *peas* was employed in the singular, and the word *pea*, as now used, was unknown.

Green beans and *peason*,  
 Nuts, pears, plums, apples, are in season.

*Taylor, the Water Poet, 1630.*

**Pelf**, rubbish; whence 'pelf,' the philosophic term for 'money,' often applied by cynics, who by no means think money the rubbish they assert. The metaphorical use of the word has entirely superseded the original.

Ill-gotten gains are called *pelfry*.—*Halliwell.*

**Pelt**, to rage. 'A pelting storm,' is therefore a *raging* storm. To *pelt* with stones is, if this derivation be correct, to 'rage,' or show rage, by throwing stones.—See *Nares*.

Poor houseless wretches, wheresoe'er ye be,  
 That bide the *pelting* of this pitiless storm.

*Shakespeare: King Lear.*

**Peth**, a well; a word not very urgently required, but which, if accepted, would be useful in versification, to add to the very few rhymes to 'death' and 'breath.'

**Pight**, a word that occurs in Chaucer, is defined by Tyrwhitt as meaning 'pitched,' rather than the preterite of 'put.'

He *pight* him on the pomel of his head,  
 That in the place he lay as he were dead.

*Chaucer: The Knight's Tale.*

**Stow**, however, at a later period, uses *pight* for 'did put.'

He was brought to the Standard in Cheape, where they strake off his head and *pight* it on a pole, and bare it before them.—*Stow's Annals: Henry VI.*

**Pin,** } the bolt of a door.  
**Pynne,** }

'To tirl at the pin,' or undo the bolt, is a common expression in 'ancient ballad poetry. The word *pynne* occurs in Piers Ploughman, in the sense of bolt:

And made Peace porter,  
 To *pynne* the gates.

**Pinchpenny,** a miser.

**Pinchback,** a miser, who denies himself proper raiment.

**Pind,** to impound a strayed animal; to put it in the pound.

**Pindar,** } the officer whose duty it was to impound strayed  
**Pinder,** } animals.

**Pinfold,** a pound for strayed animals.

**Pingle,** a small narrow enclosure.

**Pingle,** to eat with very little appetite, the same as 'tarrow'—*q.v.*

He filleth his mouth well, and is no *pingler* at his meat.  
*Topsell's Beastes*, 1607, quoted by Halliwell.

**Pippin,** an apple.

A *pippin*-monger (costermonger) selling trash.  
*Hudibras Redivivus*.

**Pirl,** to spin like a top.

**Pirle,** a stream.

**Pith,** strength, sap, vigour. A word long obsolete, but recently re-introduced to its proper place in literature.

The childe was of *pith*.  
*Perceval*, 1640, quoted by Halliwell.

**Pithful,** strong, vigorous, pithy.

**Pix,** to glean in an orchard.

**Pixie,** a fairy; *pixy*-puff, a fungus; *pixy*-rings, fairy circles.

**Plack,** a piece of money. In Belgium, the *plaque*, or little plack, is still current.

**Plackless,** moneyless.

Poor *plackless* devils like myself.  
*Burns: Scotch Drink*.

**Placket**, a petticoat. 'Joan's *placket* is torn,' the name of an old English melody.

Keep thy hand out of *plackets*, thy pen from lender's books, and defy the foul fiend.—*Shakespeare: King Lear.*

The bone-ache, that methinks  
Is the curse dependant on those that war for a *placket*.  
*Shakespeare: Troilus and Cressida.*

**Plainsong**, a melody.

**Plash**, a shallow pond, pool, or running water, whence, to 'plash' in the water. Plash also signifies a heavy fall of rain.

He leaves a shallow *plash* to plunge him in the deep.  
*Shakespeare: Taming of the Shrew.*

Obscene with filth the miscreant lies bewrayed,  
Fallen in the *plash* his wickedness had made.  
*Pope: The Dunciad.*

The thunder rain in large drops came *plash* after *plash* in large drops.  
*Blackwood's Magazine, May, 1820.*

**Platform**, the principles agreed upon by a political party; that on which the party stands. This word is now more common in America than in England, but was in general use in England up to the time of the Commonwealth.

To procure himself a pardon, went and discovered the whole *platform* of the conspiracie.

*Discovery of the New World: quoted by Nares.*

And lay new *platforms* to endamage them.  
*Shakespeare: King Henry VI.*

**Pleach**, to intertwine.

Walking in a thick *pleached* alley, in my orchard.  
*Shakespeare: Much Ado about Nothing.*

With *pleached* arms bending down.  
*Shakespeare: Antony and Cleopatra.*

**Plight**, to fold, to enfold, to intertwine; whence the phrase, 'to *plight* troth;' to intertwine or fold the faith, word, and promise of lovers.

The modern 'plait' seems to be a corruption of this word.

Creatures of the element,  
That in the colours of the rainbow live,  
And play in the *plighted* clouds.  
*Milton: Comus.*

**Plim, plump.**

He boiled a great number of groats, with a design, as he said, to make them *plim*.—*Loche on Lowering Interest*.

**Plout,** } to wade or flounder through water or mire ; to stir  
**Plouter,** } dirty water, or, figuratively, to be engaged in a dirty  
or miry business.

*Plouting* through thick and thin.

*Grose.*

Many a weary *plouter* she'd cost him,  
Through gutters and glaur.

*Jamieson's Popular Ballads.*

**Posie**, a nosegay, a bouquet, a motto. It was formerly the custom for the gallant who sent a nosegay to a lady to affix a paper with a 'poesy,' or poetical quotation, to the stalk, whence the 'posy,' or 'poesy,' afterwards came to signify the flowers themselves.

And if some infrequent passenger crossed our streets, it was not without his medicated *posie* at his nose.

*Bishop Hall, 1625.*

An' its a' to be a *posie* to my ain dear May.

*Burns.*

**Potsure**, sure with the confidence of drunkenness.

When they beheld her thus secure,  
And armed against them like a man *potsure*.

*Legend of Captain Jones, 1650 (quoted by Nares).*

**Poult**, a chicken ; from the French *poulet*.

'Tis believed, coz,  
You do not feed on pleasant (pheasant?) *poults*.

*Chapman's Revenge of Homer, 1654.*

**Poulter**, a dealer in chickens and fowls ; corrupted to poulterer, a word that is as irregular as *grocer* would be if used instead of *grocer*.

Over against the parish church of St. Mildred are divers faire houses inhabited by *poulters*.—*Stow's London*.

**Pow**, the head, the pate. An abbreviation of poll. To *poll* at election, is to count by heads; a poll-tax, is a personal tax, or tax on heads.

God bless thy snowy *pow*.—*Waugh's Lancashire Songs*.

But blessings on thy frosty *pow*,  
John Anderson, my jo.—*Burns*.

**Prank**, to dress in the fashion, to adorn.

Some *prank* their ruffs, and other trimly dight,  
Their gay attire.—*Spenser*.

*Prankings* and adornings.—*Sir Thomas More*.

False tales *prankt* in reason's garb.—*Milton: Comus*.

**Pranker**, a dandy, a 'swell.'

**Pranksome**, full of decorations and adornments, lively, frolicsome.

**Prig**, to cheapen, to beat down the price; whence the English word *prig*, a conceited person who thinks he knows better than other people.

Men who grew wise *priggin'* ower hops and raisins.

*Burns: The Brigs of Ayr*.

Ane o' the street-musician crew  
Is busy *priggin'* wi' him now;  
An' twa auld sangs he swears are new,  
He pawns on Jock.

*James Ballantine: Coal Fock*.

**Prink**, to behave in a pert, saucy manner; to adorn one's self jauntily. Dr. Johnson defines the word to be a diminutive or modification of *prank*.

*Prink* their hair with daisies.—*Cowper*.

**Prinkle**, the flesh is said to *prinkle* when there is a tingling sensation, consequent upon a temporary suspension of the circulation.—*Jamieson*.

My blood ran *prinkling* through my veins,  
When I beheld my dear, O.—*Hogg's Mountain Bard*.

I found the very hairs of my head begin to creep, and a *prinkling* through all my veins and skin, like needles and pins.

*The Brownie o' Bodsbeck*.

**Proclive**, leaning to, addicted to, having a 'proclivity' for.

Frail and *proclive* unto all evil.—*Latimer's Sermons*.

**Prog**, to poke, push, and peer about ; to maraud, for the purpose of plunder ; whence the modern slang *prog*, originally meaning food taken from the people by an invading army ; but now food in general, as in the phrase, ' my *prog* and my grog,' i.e., my food and my drink.

We travel sea and sail, we pry, we prowle,  
We progress and we *prog*, from pole to pole.

*Quarles' Emblems.*

What less than fool is man to *prog* and plot.—*Idem.*

And that man in the gown, in my opinion,  
Looks like a *progg*ing knave.—*Beaumont and Fletcher.*

**Prow**, brave, courageous ; whence *prowess*, bravery, strength.

For they be two, the *prowest* knights on ground.

*Spenser: Faerie Queene.*

**Proyne**, to clean or prune the feathers as birds do. The floricultural word *prune* in the sense of lopping off redundancies from trees or plants, does such multifarious duty, that the ancient word *proyne*, of which it is a corruption, might advantageously be restored to that restricted meaning which it had in the poetry of Chaucer's age :

And after this the birdis everich one,  
Toke up one other songe full loude and clere,  
And with a voice said, ' Well is us begone,  
That with our makis are together here,  
We *proyne* and play without doubt and dangere.

*The Kings Quair.*

Up stode and *proined* him the bird.—*Chaucer's Dreame.*

The royal bird

*Prunes* the immortal wing and cloyes his beak;

*Shakespeare: Cymbeline.*

**Put,**  
**Pat or Pight,**  
**Putten or Pitten,** } to place. The modern verb has lost the  
preterite and past participle.

I there wi' something did forgether,  
That *pat* me in an eerie swither.

*Burns: Death and Doctor Hornbook.*

Ye see how Rob and Jenny's gone sin' they  
Ha'e *pitten* o'er their heads the merry day.—*Ross's Helenore.*

He's *putten* it to a good purpose, has Brighthouse.

*The Master of Marston: London, 1864.*



**Quaddy**, squat ; short and thick.

**Quaisy**, tough and indigestible.

**Quar**, a stone quarry.

The very agate  
Of slate and polity, cut from the *quar*  
Of Machiavel ; a true cornelian  
As Tacitus himself.—*Ben Jonson*.

**Quarr**, to block up.

But as a miller having ground his grist,  
Leis down the flood-gates with a speedy fall,  
And *quarring* up the passage therewithal ;  
The waters swell in spleene and never stay  
Till by some cleft they find another way.

*Browne's Britannia's Pastorals.*

**Quash**, to smash, to subdue, to break into little pieces.

Lest we should too happy be,  
Even in our infancy,  
Our joys are *quashed*, our hopes are blasted.

*Cotton : On Death.*

Thus Britain's hardy sons of rustic mould,  
Patient of arms, still *quash* th' aspiring Gaul.—*Philip, Cerealia.*

The earth for heaviness,  
That he would suffer,  
Qnoke as a quick thing,  
And all *bequashed* the rocke.—*Piers Ploughman.*

**Quave**, to shake, to quiver.

The day for dread withdrew,  
And dark became the sun,  
And all the world *quaved*.—*Piers Ploughman.*

**Quave-mire**, a quag-mire, or a shaky bog.

A greate deepe marsh or *quave-mire*.—*North (Nares).*

**Queach**, a bog, a morass.

All sylvan copses and the fortresses of thorniest *queaches*.

*Chapman's Homer.*

**Queachy**, shaking, quivering.

Goodwin's *queachy* sands.—*Drayton's Polyolbion.*

Rent the holly woods, and shook the *queachy* ground.—*Idem.*

**Quean**, a woman, a wench, a strong girl.

Grey, great-headed *queans*.—*Piers Ploughman.*

I wat she was a cantie *quean*.

*Burns : Roy's Wife of Aldivalloch.*

**Quean**—*continued*.

In Shakespeare's time *quean* ceased to be a word of respect, as it used to be in the days of Piers Ploughman and Chaucer, and as it still is in Scotland, and became a term of contempt and reproach.

A witch, a *quean*, an old cozening *quean*.

*Shakespeare: Merry Wives of Windsor.*

That Troy prevailed, that Greeks were conquered cleane,  
And that Penelope was but a *queane*.—*Harington's Ariosto.*

**Queme**, to please; pleasant, convenient, fitting, appropriate; the modern German *bequemlich* has the same meaning.

To be accepted thee to *queme* and please.

*Lydgate MS., Ashmolé; quoted by Halliwell.*

**Queming**, pleasure. The words *queme* and *queming* occur in the 'Dictionary of the Oldest Words in the English Language,' by Herbert Coleridge.

**Querl**, to spin round, to coil, to twirl.

**Quern**, a hand mill, a churn.

Are ye not he,  
That frights the maidens of the villages,  
Skims milk, and labours in the *quern*?

*Shakespeare: Midsummer Night's Dream.*

**Quert**, joyful, in good spirits.

He was now in *quert*,  
And all hale of wille and herte.

*Iwayne and Gawin (Jamieson).*

All but the Earl they were full fain,  
In *querte* that he was comyn hame.—*Sir Eglamour.*

**Quethe**, to say, speak, declare. The preterite of this verb still remains in the language, in the well-known and well-worn phrase, 'quoth he.' From the same root comes *bequeath*, to give to your survivors in your last will and testament; to *declare* that they shall have such and such portions of your property.

**Quick**, alive; possibly derivable from the Gaelic *coig*, five; applied to the five senses—thence to one in possession of his five senses—living, quick.

'The *quick* and the dead,' is a scriptural phrase, familiar to everybody. The word in this sense is fast becoming obsolete; and *quick* in its modern signification is simply active,

**Quick**—*continued.*

the reverse of slow. The common expression, 'Look alive,' is synonymous with 'be *quick*.'

If ever the dead come to the *quick*,  
Be sure, Marg'ret, I'll come to thee.

*Clerk Saunders: Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border.*

**Quillet**, a play upon words; a facetious subtlety of argument, without logical force.

Let not human *quill*ets keep back divine authority.

*Milton: Of Reformation in England.*

Ply her with love-letters and billets,  
And bait them well with *quirks* and *quill*ets.

*Butler: Hudibras.*

**Quip**; from the Gaelic *cui*p, a whip. This word, enshrined in Shakespeare and Milton, dropped out of use for a century, but is again becoming a favourite. It means a quick, sharp jest, or stroke of raillery.

And notwithstanding all her sudden *quips*  
The least whereof would quell a lover's hope.

*Shakespeare: Two Gentlemen of Verona.*

*Quips* and cranks and wreathed smiles.—*Milton.*

**Quirk**, an unfair turn in an argument; an evasion or twisting of the truth.

For my part, I have studied the law; \* \* \* these be but *quirks* intended to delay matters.—*Fox: Book of Martyrs.*

**Quirky**, tricky; unfair, pettifogging.

**Quoke**, preterite of quake, to tremble.

An ugly pit, deep as any hell,  
That to behold thereon, I *quoke* for fear.—*The King's Quair.*

The whole land of Italy trembled and *quoke*.

*Douglas: Translation of the Æneid.*

**Quoy**, a northern word, signifying a piece of enclosed land on a common. 'In Orkney, a circular enclosure of the kind is called "a ringit *quoy*."'—*Jamieson.*

Rack, } cloud ;—a bank of clouds, vapour.  
Wrack, }

Can permit the basest clouds to ride,  
With ugly *rack* on his celestial face.

*Shakespeare: The Tempest.*

Swifter than the sailing *rack* that gallops  
Upon the wings of angry winds.—*Beaumont and Fletcher.*

Now we may calculate by the welkin's *wrack*,  
Eolus hath chast the clouds that were so black.

*Heywood's Marriage Triumph.*

Raddles, pieces of supple underwood, twisted between upright stakes to form a fence.

Our fathers did well, either in houses of staves, or in houses of *raddles*.  
*Holinshed.*

Raid, a predatory incursion on horseback. This Scottish word has gradually been establishing itself in the favour of the best writers and speakers, both in England and in America.

Rakel, } rough, coarse, rugged, rash.  
Raucle, }

Rakelness, roughness, coarseness, rashness.

This word, derived from the Latin *raucus*, hoarse, or the Gaelic *rac*, discordant, or *racaireachd*, noisy, discordant, riotous, survives in Scotland. Burns in the 'Jolly Beggars,' describes the wench who sings the song of 'A Highland lad my love was born,' as a '*raucle* carline.' In his 'Earnest cry and prayer to the Scottish representatives in Parliament,' he speaks of Scotland as having 'a *raucle* tongue, when she is offended.'

O *rakle* hand ! to do so foule amis  
O troubled wit ! O ire reccheless !  
\* \* \* \*

O every man beware of *rakelness*.

*Chaucer: The Manciple's Tale.*

The souden sayd it is not so  
For your prestes that suld vertus trace,  
They syn *rakyll* out of gud grace,  
Give ille example and lie in synne.

*Halliwell: MS. Bodleian.*

**Rakelness**—*continued.*

In the west of England, *rackle* signifies rough, noisy talk ; and in Cumberland, *rackle*-deed is loose, unruly conduct. These examples serve to show that the word is not derived from rock and reckless, as Worcester and other lexicographers suppose : as in addition to the sense of heedlessness and suddenness, it always implies coarseness and roughness. From the same source is derived the corrupted form of *rake-hell*.

With a handful of *rake-helles*, which he had scummed together in this our shire, whilst the king was on his return from Tewbury.

*Lambarde's Perambulation, 1596.*

The Americans of the present day, call *rake-hells*, roughs, thus going back unconsciously to the original source of the word.

**Rance**, a prop, a stake ; support, or scaffold.

**Ranch**, a deep scratch or wound with the sword upon the body, with a plough upon the earth, or with the claws of a wild animal.

*A ranche* or clinche with a beast's paw.—*Cotgrave.*

*Ranched* his hips with one continued wound.—*Dryden.*

Dr. Johnson was at a loss to explain the etymology or meaning of this word ; and Worcester defines it to be a corruption of *wrench*. 'A Northamptonshire rustic,' says Mr. Sternberg in his 'Glossary,' 'would have had no difficulty in understanding that line of "Glorious John," which so puzzled the learned Johnson. Dryden was a Northamptonshire man, and might have heard the word during one of his many sojourns in that county.'

**Rand**, the rushes and long grass on the banks of a stream, or on the margin of a lake or pool.

**Rant**, a public meeting, or fair ; whence, perhaps, the word *ranter*, a priest or layman who preached to the crowd on such occasions.

Thou art the life o' public haunts,

But thee, what were our fairs and rants ?—*Burns : Scotch Drink.*

**Rape**, haste.

**Rapely**, readily.

**Rapen**, to prepare, make ready.;

Two risen up in *rape*.—*Piers Ploughman*.

*Rape* thee to ride.—*Idem*.

*Rape* thee to shrifte.—*Idem*.

With that saw I another

*Rapelych* (rapely) run forth.—*Idem*.

Ran ramping, swearing, rude and *rape*.

*The Cherry and the Sloe*.

**Rath**, } From the Gaelic *trath*, early, soon. The compara-  
**Rathe**, } tive of this adjective is in common use ; but the posi-  
 tive and superlative have both been allowed to drop out of  
 the language. Milton in 'Lycidas,' speaks of the '*rathe*  
 primrose ;' Drayton in his 'Polyolbion,' has, '*rathe* as he  
 could rise.'

To serve that lady both late and *rathe*.—*Piers Ploughman*.

Oh dear, cousin mine, dear John, she said,

What aileth you so *rathe* for to arise ?—*Chaucer*.

Too *rathe* cut off by practice criminal

Of secret foes.—*Spenser*.

A *rathe* December, blights my lagging May.

*Hartley Coleridge*.

Bishop Hall mentions '*rathe* ripe wits, that prevent their own perfection ;' and in the cider districts there is a well known species of apple called the *rathe-ripe*. Nares quotes but one example of the use of the superlative *rathest* : 'Barley almost ripe to be cut in June, whereas in England they seldom cut the *rathest* before the beginning of August.'

In the 'Glossary of the Provincialisms of Sussex,' by W. Durrant Cooper, it is stated that the word *rath* is in frequent use and well understood in that county.

**Rax**, to reach ; to stretch.

**Baught**, reached, stretched.

This is doubtless the ancient form of the modern word to reach, or stretch, the x being softened to ch, as has happened in such words as church from kirk ; churn, from kern. The advantage of retaining it is shown in the proverb : 'Never *rax* aboon your reach ;' which, if translated into modern phraseology, would be, 'never *stretch* above your *reach*,' a phrase as full of meaning, but scarcely so forcible.

**Raught**—*continued*.

The word still exists in the south of England. A street at Bridport is called the *Rax*, or stretch of ground.

And may ye *rax* corruption's neck,  
And gie her for dissection.—*Burns: A Dream*.

Their three mile prayers and half-mile graces,  
Their *raxing* conscience.—*Burns: Epistle to Rev. John McMath*.

He stert up and would have him *raught*.  
*Merlin, Early English Metrical Romances*.

Upon my life, by some device or other,  
The villain is o'er *raught* of all my money.  
*Shakespeare: Comedy of Errors*.

The auld gudeman *raught* down the pock.—*Burns: Halloween*.

**Raven**, to devour greedily, or to be eager to devour; apparently derived from the Saxon *reave* or *rieve*, to steal or take away violently; from whence the word *ravener*, a plunderer; used by Gower, Chaucer, and other writers of that time. The still current adjective, 'ravenous,' signifies hungry for food, enjoyment, or revenge.

Benjamin shall *raven* as a wolf.—*Genesis*, chapter xlix.

Better 'twere  
I met the *raven* lion when he roared  
With sharp constraint of hunger.  
*Shakespeare: All's Well that Ends Well*.

Our natures do pursue;  
Like rats that *raven* down their proper bane.  
*Shakespeare: Measure for Measure*.

Maw  
Of the *ravened* salt sea shark.—*Shakespeare: Macbeth*.

leap,  
lept,  
lope,  
lopen, } to cut or help to cut the harvest.

*Ropen* and laide away the corne.  
*Chaucer: Legende of Good Women*.  
After the corn is *rept*.—*Nares*.

**Reave**, to take away, only used at present in its augmentative form of be-reave.

If he *reveth* me my right,  
He robbeth me by maistrie.—*Piers Ploughman*.

**Reave**—*continued.*

Next we *reave* this sword,  
And give thee armless to thine enemies,  
For being foe to goodness and to heaven.

*Beaumont and Fletcher: Knight of Malta.*

To *reave* the orphan of his patrimony,  
And have no other reason for his wrong,  
But that he was bound by a solemn oath.

*Shakespeare: Henry VI.*

Butcher sire that *reaves* his son of life.

*Shakespeare: Venus and Adonis.*

That which God will give,  
The Deil canna *reave*.—Allan Ramsay's *Scottish Proverbs.*

**Reavery**, robbery.

Wallace was near, when he such *reaverie* saw,  
He spake to them with manly countenance.—*Blind Harry.*

**Reft**, preterite of reave.

These poor, world wandering men,  
(Of all hope to return their country *reft*,)  
Sought shores whereon to set the little there was left.

*Drayton's Polyolbion.*

From this word comes the northern *reiver*, a thief, a *taker-away*. At Newcastle, the evening before the fair, the Great Bell of St. Nicholas called the 'Thief and Reaver Bell,' used to be rung, to notify to the fair-frequenting public the approaching commencement of business, and consequently the advent of the thieves.

**Ream.** This word expresses the effervescency of liquor, like the French word *mousser*, to sparkle, and is a better word than creaming, of which it is the original. 'Creaming champagne, and creaming ale,' should be 'reaming champagne, or ale,' for there is no cream in wine or beer. *Ream* was formerly used in the sense of cream, as may be seen in the passage quoted from the 'Legendæ Catholicæ,' in Halliwell's 'Archaic Dictionary:'

Methinks this pain is sweeter,  
Than any milk's *ream*.

In Scottish poetry the word is of frequent occurrence, and by Robert Burns, more especially, is used with excellent effect. Tam o' Shanter sits by the ingle-side, on a market night,

With *reaming* swats that drink divinely.



**Ream**—*continued.*

Afterwards the swats (ale)

So *reamed* in Tammie's noddle,

when he looked in at the window of the haunted kirk and saw Maggie leaping in her 'cuttie sark,' that he was emboldened to utter the famous cry that brought the whole of the grotesque crew after him.

**Reck**, to take heed ; or care ; whence *reckless* and *recklessness*.

I *reck* as as little what betideth me,  
As much I wish all good befortune you.—*Shakespeare.*

With that care lost,  
Went all his fear of God or hell, or worse,  
He *recked* not.—*Milton.*

And may ye better *reck* the rede,  
Than ever did th' adviser.

*Burns : Epistle to a Young Friend.*

**Rede**, to advise, to counsel.**Redel**, a thing or subject to be taken into counsel, or consideration, whence 'riddle,' a little rede.

Are ye —————  
Yernen to *rede redels*,  
I shall bring you a Bible,  
A book of the old lawe.—*Piers Ploughman.*

When King Orfed heard this case,  
Then he said alas ! alas !  
He asked *rede* of many a manne.

*MS. Ashmole, quoted by Halliwell.*

Why yes, fore God, goth Henry Nicholas,  
If thou wilt werken after love and *rede*.

*Chaucer : The Miller's Tale.*

And therefore I *rede*,  
My son that thou flee and drede  
This vice.—*Gower : Confessio Amantis.*

Himself the primrose path of dalliance treads,  
And recks not his own *rede*.—*Shakespeare : Hamlet.*

Therefore I *rede* you three go hence.

*Gammer Gurton's Needle.*

Short *rede* is good *rede*.—*Allan Ramsay.*

**Redel**—*continued.*

Ye gallants bright, I *rede* ye right,  
Beware o' bonnie Anne.—*Burns: Songs.*

Two hundred and nine marched out; one escaped at the end of the bridge; yet behold when you count the corpses, they are two hundred and ten. *Rede* us this riddle.—*Carlyle's History of the French Revolution.*

The man is blest that hath not lent  
To wicked *rede* his ears,

*Sternhold: Version of the Psalms.*

The etymology of the name of the village of Leatherhead, in Surrey, has puzzled whole generations of local antiquaries, but as it was originally written Leoderede, the name seems to offer no difficulty, and to bespeak for itself a very respectable antiquity, as well as a very honourable derivation. *Leod* is the Anglo-Saxon for people, from the same root as the Gaelic *luchd*, and the German *leute*, and conjoined with 'rede,' means the 'Council of the people.' Probably it was the place of meeting of some great popular assemblage; not a *wittenagemote*, or meeting of the wise men, but of the multitude.

**Reek**, smoke, vapour, or exhalation; from *rauch*, smoke.  
'*Auld Reekie*,' 'old smoky;' i.e., Edinburgh.

You common cry of curs, whose breath I hate,  
As *reek* o' the rotten fens.

*Shakespeare.*

Which with his beams, the sun  
Soon dried, and on the *reeking* moisture fed.

*Milton.*

The *reek* of my ain house is better  
Than the ingle of my neighbour's.

*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

Come hitherward my maidens fair,  
Come hither unto me,  
Through this *reek*, and through this smeeke.

*Motherwell's Ancient Minstrelsy.*

**Revel-coyle**, noisy merriment.

To dance, sing, sport, and to keep *revel-coyle*.  
*Taylor's Works, 1630.*

**Revel-rout**, confused and noisy sport ; the same as *revel-coyle*.

There is a strange thing like a gentlewoman,  
Crept into the nunnery, we know not which way,  
Plays *revel-rout* among us.

*Monsieur Thomas.*

**Rewth**, } pity, compassion ; from whence *ruthless*, pitiless, and  
**Ruth**, } *ruthful*, compassionate.

Then said he by Saint John,  
It is great *rewth* for to slon (slay)  
That God has bought so dear.

*Romance of Amys and Amylion.*

Tho' she can weep to stir up gentle *ruth*,  
But for her noble blood and for her tender truth.

*Spenser: Faerie Queene.*

If *ruthful* gods have any power.

*Surrey: Virgil's Æneid.*

**Ribb**, } a wrinkle, a furrow. Sternberg, in his 'Northamp-  
**Ribble**, } tonshire Glossary,' quotes the popular phrase : ' His  
forehead was *ribbled*.'

Coleridge, in a note to the 'Ancient Mariner,' says he was  
indebted to Wordsworth for the lines :

And he was lank, and lean, and bare,  
As is the *ribb'd* sea-sand.

**Rindle**, to sparkle like running water ; a mountain stream.

The dainty *rindles* dancing down,  
Fro' the mountains to the plain.

*Waugh's Lancashire Songs.*

By primrose banks,  
Where *rindling* weet was shining.

*Idem.*

**Rift**, to belch, to blow.

Three times the carline groaned and *rifted*.

*Allan Ramsay.*

**Rift**, a fissure, a break, that which is riven or rift.

**Rift**, to cleave or break asunder.

Then I'd shriek, that even your ears  
Should *rift* to hear me.

*Shakespeare: Winter's Tale.*

**Rift**—*continued*.

Flauchts (lightnings) did rift  
 Frae the black vizard o' the lift.

*Allan Ramsay: The Vision.*

**Rink**, a course or arena for public sports. The word is principally used in connection with skating, and applied either to an open pond, frozen over, where a ring is made, or to a covered inclosure for the same purpose. The word is common in America and Scotland, though but little used in England. It formerly signified a distinct charge, or encounter in a tournament.

Trumpets and shalms with a shout  
 Played ere the *rink* began,  
 And equal judges sat about  
 To see who tint or wan.

*The Evergreen.*

**Roaky**, } hazy, misty, nebulous, dull, coarse, not clear ; from  
**Roky**, } the French *rauque* ; *une voix rauque*, a hoarse, thick  
 voice.

In Shakespeare, act iii., scene 2, of Macbeth, the passage occurs :

Light thickens ; and the crow  
 Makes wing to the *rooky* wood.

It is probable that 'rooky' was formerly a recognized English word, or is a misprint for roaky. If there were much doubt as to the true meaning of the passage, it might be removed by a reference to Jamieson's 'Dictionary of the Scottish Language,' where 'roaky' is spelt 'rooky,' and defined as 'misty.'

A *rooky* mist fell down at break of day,  
 Then thought he fit to make the best o's way.

*Hamilton's Wallace.*

Richardson defines the word in Shakespeare to mean 'covering.' Johnson in like manner failed to perceive the real meaning, as did also Webster and Worcester, both of whom define 'rooky' to mean inhabited by rooks.

Rooky is not a more legitimate word than 'crowy' would be ; and why the crows should fly to the rooks at daylight, is not easy to discover. But 'roaky,' or 'rooky,' in the sense of 'misty,' makes the passage intelligible.

**Rode**, a healthy complexion; the redness of one red with the blood of life; whence *ruddy*.

His *rode* is like scarlet in grayn.

*Chaucer.*

**Rogue-house**, a prison, a penitentiary.

**Rone**, to comfort; (Herbert Coleridge's 'Dictionary of the Oldest Words in the English Language.')

**Roop**, a sore throat, the croop.

**Rooped**, } hoarse, as with bronchitis or sore throat.  
**Roopit**, }

What's the matter now with him? What *roope* ails he?  
*Terence in England, 1614.*

Alas, my *roopit* Muse is hoarse.

*Burns: The Author's Earnest Cry and Prayer.*

**Roose**, } to praise; to drink a health.  
**Rouse**, }

This word is still current in the North of England and Scotland, in its original sense of to praise or extol. In England, in the Elizabethan age, it meant to drink a bumper to any one's health; on which occasions, as now when people drink a toast, it was customary and necessary to praise the person in whose honour the bumper was drunk.

*Rouse*, a mode of drinking, in which the full cup or other drinking vessel was to be emptied at a draught; a bumper toast.

*Rev. A. Dyce: Glossary to Ben Jonson's Works.*

No jocund health that Denmark drinks to-day,  
But the great cannon to the clouds shall tell,  
And the king's *rouse* the heavens shall bruit again,  
Respeaking earthly thunder.

*Shakespeare: Hamlet.*

*Roose* the ford as ye find it.

*Roose* the fair day at e'en.

*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

When Redisdale and Wise William  
Were drinking at the wine,  
They fell a *roosing* them among,  
On one unruly time.

**Roose**—*continued.*

Some of them hae *roosed* their hawkes,  
 And other some their hounds,  
 And other some their ladies fair.

*Motherwell's Ancient Minstrelsy.*

And we'll have a *rouse* in each of them, anon ; for bold Britons  
 i' faith.—*Ben Jonson.*

I have took since supper  
 A *rouse* or two too much.

*Beaumont and Fletcher.*

Shall bauld Lapraik, the king o' hearts,  
*Roose* ye sae weel for your deserts,  
 In terms sae friendly,  
 Yet ye'll neglect to show your parts,  
 And thank him kindly.

*Burns : Epistle to Lapraik.*

**Roove**, to rivet, to clinch.

If this nail be once *rooved*, we with our teeth will never get it  
 drawn.—*Baillie's Letters, quoted by Jamieson.*

**Rooven**, riveted.

Ships composed of meane stuffe, having their keeles and ribs made  
 of slight timber, and the rest of the hull *rooven* up with osiers, covered  
 with leather.

*The Sovereigntie of the British Seas ; by Sir John Borroughs, 1633.*

**Rote**, Gaelic *roth*, a wheel. To learn a thing by rote, is to  
 learn it mechanically, 'as the wheel turns.'

His respondes,  
 But be pure *rote*.

*Piers Ploughman.*

And if by chance a tune you *rote*.

*Drayton.*

**Rother**, a rudder ; whence Rotherhithe, the haven of rudders,  
 i.e., ships.

**Rove**, preterite of rive, to split, to rend asunder.

**Route**, }  
**Rout**, } to assemble ; a company.

In all that land no Christian durste *route*.

*Chaucer : The Man of Lawe's Tale.*

Even he rode the hinderest of the *route*.

*Chaucer : Prologue to the Canterbury Tales.*

**Route**—*continued*.

Of women many a *route*.

*Chaucer: The Marchante's Tale.*

**Routh,** } abundance.  
**Rowth,** }

For *routh* shall cherish love, and love shall bring  
Mae men t' improve the soil and serve the king.

*Allan Ramsay: The North Sea.*

God grant your lordship joy and health,  
Long days, and *rowth* of real wealth.

*Idem, Epistle to Lord Dalhousie.*

They that have *rowth* o' butter, may lay it thick upon the scone  
(cake).—*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

Rich folk have *routh* o' friends.

*Idem.*

A *rowth* of bonnie bairns and brave.

*Idem, Masque on the Marriage of the Duke of Hamilton.*

Fortune ! if thou wilt gie me still,  
Hale breeks, a scone, a whiskey gill,  
And *rowth* o' rhyme to rave at will,  
Tak a' the rest.

*Burns: Scotch Drink.*

**Rowan-tree**, the mountain ash.—This tree, or a twig of it, was supposed, in the superstition of Scotland, to be a charm against witchcraft. Hence the phrase, 'Aroint thee, witch,' in Shakespeare (who never corrected his proof-sheets), is supposed to be a misprint for 'a rowan-tree-witch.' The word is said to occur in no author previous to Shakespeare. There is an old Scottish couplet which lends countenance to this supposition :

*Rowan-tree* and red thread  
Mak' the witches tyne their speed.

**Rowe**, to roll or purl like a stream, to wrap up in cloth or flannel.

Where Nith runs *rowin'* to the sea.

*Burns: Song.*

Hap and *rowe*, hap and *rowe*,  
Hap and *rowe* the feetie o't.

*Burns: Song.*

**Rown**, to talk privately; to whisper in the ear; from the Gaelic *run*, a mystery, a secret, a whisper; whence, in the same language, *runaire*, a secretary.

And *rowneth* in his ear.

*Fiers Ploughman.*

They risen up in rape,  
And *rowned* together;  
And praised this pennyworth.

*Idem.*

The archbishop then called to him a clerk, and *rowned* with him.—*Wordsworth's Ecclesiastical Biography.*

The steward on his knees set him down,  
With the emperor for to *rown*.

*Romance of Cœur de Lion.*

But if it like you that I might *rowne* in your eare.

*Skelton.*

This word in Shakespeare's time had become corrupted into *round*, just as the word *drown* in our time is by vulgar people pronounced *drownd*, with *drownded* in the preterite. The phrase to 'round in the ear,' appears in much of the literature of that day, and has not been corrected in the modern reprints of Shakespeare. Polonius says to the King in 'Hamlet':

Let his queen mother all alone entreat him  
To show his griefs; let her be *round* with him.

Mr. Staunton, in a note on this passage, explains this to mean, 'let her be blunt and plain-spoken with him.' The true meaning is to be sought in the word *rown*.

As God's own soldier, *rounded* (*rowned*?) in the ear,  
With that same purpose-changer.

*Shakespeare: King John.*

Disease, age, death, still in our ears thus *round* (*rown*).

*Puttenham.*

But being come to the supper-place, one of Kalender's servants  
*rounded* (*rowned*) in his ear.—*Pembroke's Arcadia.*

They're here with me already, whispering, *rounding* (*rowning*).

*Shakespeare: Winter's Tale.*



**Rowte**, to roar or bellow like cattle ; whence the phrase, 'the *rutting* time of deer,' from their bellowing when in that state.

The word *rout* in the phrase 'rabble *rout*,' or the roar of the multitude, may possibly be derivable from this source rather than from 'rout,' confusion.

In Sternberg's 'Northamptonshire Glossary,' *rout* is said to be a noise made by sheep.

Chaucer, in the 'House of Fame,' uses the word to express the roaring of the sea :

Like the beating of the sea  
Against the rockys hollow,  
And that a man stande  
A mile off thence and hear it *rowte*.

In the 'Miller's Tale,' the Carpenter 'dede asleep,' is said to *grone* and *rowte*. The Miller snorted in his sleep, and his wife provided a burden or bass to the music, so loud that 'men might hear her *rowtings* at a furlong's distance.'

Maggie has baked the supper scones,  
And muckle kye stand *rowting* in the loans (lanes).  
*Allan Ramsay: Pastoral on the Death of Addison.*

The bum-clock (beetle) hummed wi' lazy drone,  
The kye stood *rowting* i' the loan.  
*Burns: The Twa Dogs.*

**Rowth**, plenty, abundance.

A *rowth* o' rhyme to rave at will.  
*Burns: Scotch Drink.*

He had a *rowth* o' auld knick-knackets.  
*Burns: Captain Grose.*

**Royle**, } *v.*, to trouble, or create a commotion in the waters  
**Roil**, } until they become turbid ; also to ruffle a person's  
temper ; to reproach. The word, often pronounced *rile*, is common in all the Midland Counties. 'He's been *royling* at me all day,' is a phrase quoted in Sternberg's 'Northamptonshire Glossary.' 'He loves to fish in *roiled* waters,' is a common proverb in many parts of England. The Americans have adopted the word, with its corrupt spelling *rile*, in which form it has come back again to the land of its

**Royle**—*continued.*

birth, where it might do good service if the proper pronunciation could be restored. *Sam Slick* has done much to make it familiar. In the 'Clockmaker in England,' he says, 'I won't say your country or my country, and then I won't *rile* nobody.' And in 'Human Nature': 'It *riled* me so, that I first steps up to him, as savage as a meat-axe, intending to throw him down stairs.'

We begin to think it's nature  
To take sarse and not be *riled*;  
Who'd expect to see a tater  
All on end at being *biled*?

*Lowell: The Biglow Papers.*

The word in America is also used as an adjective: 'The boys and girls were laughing so much at my scrape, and the pickle I was in, that I gan to get *riley*.—*Robb: Squatter Life.*

**Royne**, the mange; from the French *rogne*.

**Roynish**, } mangy.  
**Royny**, }

The *roynish* clown, at whom so oft  
Your Grace was wont to laugh.

*Shakespeare: As You Like it.*

**Roxle**, to grunt; Gaelic, *rocanach*, having a hoarse voice.—  
Herbert Coleridge's 'Dictionary of the Oldest Words in the English Language.'

**Ruck**, to roost like a bird; to haunt.

The furies made the bridegroom's bed,  
And on the house did *rucke*  
A cursed owl, the messenger  
Of ill-success and lucke.

*Golding's Ovid, 1603.*

The raven *ruck'd* her in the chimney's top,  
And chattering pyes in dismal discords sung.

*Shakespeare: Henry VI.*

**Ruddock**, the robin redbreast.

The *ruddock* would with charitable bill  
Bring them all this.

*Shakespeare: Cymbeline.*

The mavis descant plays,  
The ouzell trills, the *ruddock* warbles soft.

*Spenser: Epithalamium.*

**Ruff**, a triumph ; the ancient name for a trump card.

And in the *ruffe* of his felicitie,  
Pricked with ambition.

*Mirror for Magistrates.*

**Rug**, } the back of a man or animal ; also a protuberance ;  
**Rugge**, } hence applied to a rock or mountain ; the root of the  
adjective 'rugged.'

Should no curious clothe  
Comen on his *rugge*.

*Piers Ploughman.*

The knight to the boar is gone,  
And cleveth him to the *rugge-bone*.

*MS. Cantab., quoted by Halliwell.*

At his *rugge* bones end.

*Piers Ploughman.*

**Ruly**, obedient ; as good and necessary a word as *unruly*, or disobedient, which remains in the language.

**Rumorous**, murmurous.

Clashing of armour, and the *rumorous* sound,  
Of the stern billows.

*Drayton, 1604.*

**Rune**, or **Ryn**, a letter ; a discourse, a conversation, a whisper.  
*See Rown.*

Mr. Herbert Coleridge includes this word among the oldest in the English language.

**Rung**, the step of a ladder.

And layeth a ladder thereto,  
And lesyngs are the *rungs*.

*Piers Ploughman.*

**Rung**, a cudgel, a shillelagh. Something that hits a ringing blow.

Auld Scotland —————  
She's just a devil wi' a *rung*.

*Burns.*

**Runt**, an ox ; German, *rind*. Metaphorically applied in the North to a strong, rough, ignorant, bull-headed person.

**Sag**, to bend or give way under great pressure ; like marshy land under the foot ; to fail in health, to droop, to wither.

The mind I sway by, and the heart I bear,  
Shall never *sag* with doubt or shake with fear.  
*Shakespeare.*

That it may not *sag* from the intention of the founder.  
*Fuller's Worthies.*

**Sog**, preterite of sag.

**Samely**, monotonous, unvaried ; always the same.

Oh *samely*, naked leas, so bleak and strange.  
*Clare.*

**Samite**, silk velvet.

In silke *samite* she was light arrayed,  
And her fair locks were woven up in gold.  
*Spenser's Faerie Queene.*

Clad in white *samite*, mystic, wonderful.  
*Tennyson.*

**Sark**, a common word all over Scotland and the North and East of England for a shirt, and either derived from the Greek *σαγξ*, the body next to which the shirt is worn, or, as Richardson supposes, from *Σηκος*, silk, of which material *sarks* were first made. Dr. Arbuthnot, in 'John Bull,' says, 'Flaunting beaux with their breasts open, and their *sarks* over their waistcoats.'

She shoulde unsowen her *sark*.  
*Piers Ploughman:*

My *sark's* dear to me, but my skin's dearer.  
*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

**Saw**, a saying.

Full of wise *saws* and modern instances.

*Shakespeare.*

From the same source comes *after-saw*, a rejoinder.

**Safe**, to lead a roving, vagabond life ; to beg, to swindle.

They scaffold (*scaffolded*) through all Scotland, oppressing the leal man as well as the thief, for their particular commoditie.

*Piscottie's Chronicle.*

A *scaffing* varlet, wanting shame.

*Legend of the Bishop of St. Andrews.*

**Scale**, to disperse ; like a crowd or congregation ; Gaelic *sgaoil*, to spread, to scatter, to disperse.

They would no longer abide,  
But *scaled* and departed away.

*Holinshed.*

Whereupon the troopers *scaled*.

*Ibid.*

This word, lost in England, is common in Scotland : ' The kirk is *scaling* ;' i.e., the congregation is leaving the church. ' When the school *scales* ;' i.e., when the school hours are over, and the children are let loose.

**Scart**, to scratch.

Yea, weighty reason me inclines,  
To thank some eminent divines ;  
Make their assenting here to thwart,  
And one another's cheeks to *scart*.

*Cleveland.*

They that bourd (jest) with cats may count upon *scarts*.

*Allan Ramsay.*

To *scart* the buttons, or draw one's hand down the breast of another, so as to touch the buttons with one's nails, is a mode of challenging to battle among boys ; perhaps a relic of some ancient mode of hostile defiance.—*Jamieson.*

**Scart-free**, without a scratch, or injury.

All whom the lawyers do advise,  
Get not off *scart-free*.

*Clelland.*

**Scartle**, to scratch or scrape together by small strokes ; diminutive of *scart*. In the South of Scotland, an instrument resembling a hoe, used for clearing out a cow-house, is called a *scartle*.

**Scathe**, or **Skaith** ; to injure, blast, destroy ; and *scathe*, injury, harm, destruction. *Scatheful*, injurious. *Scatheless*, harmless. These words have been used by the best writers since the days of Chaucer ; though they have not succeeded in retaining their place in ordinary conversation, the pulpit, or the stage.

It doth him double *scathe*.—*Piers Ploughman*.

My foes —————  
Are buckled to do me *scathe*.—*Earl of Surrey*.

Was some deal deaf, and that was *scathe*.  
*Chaucer : Wife of Bath*.

This trick may chance to *scathe* you.  
*Shakespeare : Romeo and Juliet*.

Had I twenty times as many foes,  
And each of them had twenty times their power,  
All these could not procure me any *scathe*,  
So long as I am loyal, true, and harmless.  
*Shakespeare : Henry VI*.

*Scathed* the forest oaks and mountain pines.—*Milton*.

Guid faith !  
Ye're maybe come to stop my breath ;  
But tent me, billie ;  
I red ye weel, tak care o' *skaith*,  
See, here's a gully !  
*Burns : Death and Dr. Hornbook*.

One man does the *scathe*, and another gets the scorn.

Better learn from your neighbour's *skaith* than your own.

Better *skaith* saved than amends made.

Scorn commonly comes wi' *skaith*.  
*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs*.

**Scathy**, } mischievous ; applied to a wild, excited, or frantic  
**Skathy**, } person.

Let him alone, he's *scathy*.

**Scaur**, or } a bare rock without vegetation. *Nab-Scar*, in  
**Scar**, } Westmoreland, opposite Rydal Mount ; 'the head  
 of the bare rock.' From the same root, the Gaelic *skerries*,  
 the rocks ; and *Skerrievore*, the 'great bare rock,' on the  
 west coast of Scotland. Scarborough, in Yorkshire, derives  
 its name from this word.

**Scaw**, the elder tree.

**Scoad**, }  
**Scode**, } to scatter earth, manure, or broken rubbish.

**Scoil**, loose stones, rubbish ; the head of a quarry.

**Scope**, Anglo-Saxon for a poet or maker ; from *sceopen*, to  
 make.

**Scorce**, to exchange.

But Paridell sore bruised with the blow,  
 Could not arise the counterchange to *scorce*.

*Spenser : Faerie Queene.*

Will you *scorce* with him ? You are in Smithfield, you may fit yourself  
 with a fine, easy-going street nag.—*Ben Jonson.*

**Scouth**, room ; elbow-room, space.

An he'll get *scouth* to wield his tree,  
 I fear you'll both be paid.—*Ballad of Robin Hood.*

By break of day he seeks the dowie glen,  
 That he may *scouth* to a' his morning len'.

*Allan Ramsay : Pastoral on the Death of Matthew Prior.*

**Scream**, }  
**Screik**, } a shrill cry, or sound ; harsher and sharper than a  
**Srike**, } shriek. The *screik* of the railway whistle.

Which lie in torments, yet die not,  
 With many woeful *srikes*.—*Halliwel.*

**Screeve**, }  
**Serieve**, } to glide swiftly along.

The wheels of life go down hill *screiving*,  
 Wi' rattling glee.—*Burns : Scotch Drink.*

**Scrimp**, bare, scarce ; *scrimply*, barely, scarcely.

Down flowed her robe, a tartan sheen,  
Till half a leg was *scrimply* seen ;  
And such a leg ! my bonnie Jean  
Alone could peer it.—*Burns : The Vision.*

**Scritch**, to screech.

Perhaps it is the owl's *scritch*,  
Or what can ail the mastiff bitch?—*Coleridge : Christabel.*

**Scrog**, a stunted bush ; furze.

**Scroggy**, abounding in underwood ; covered with stunted bushes, whin, or furze.

The way towards the city was stony, thorny, and *scroggy*.  
*Gesta Romanorum.*

Sir Walter Scott, when suffering from his last illness in Italy, was taken to a wild scene on the mountains that border the Lago di Garda. He had long been apathetic, and almost insensible to surrounding objects ; but his fading eyes flashed with unwonted fire at the sight of the furze bushes and *scrogs* that reminded him of home and Scotland ; and he suddenly exclaimed in the words of the Jacobite ballad :

Up the *scroggy* mountain,  
And down the *scroggy* glen,  
We dare na gang a hunting,  
For Charlie and his men.

**Scroil**, } default ; rubbish ; a mean fellow.  
**Scroyle**, }

Queen Elizabeth thanked Sir Harry Wallop, 'for some other services than common commissions for which in *skroile* of other memorials, I fail not to lock in my best memorye.'—*Chalmer's Apology*, 1797.

In 'King John,' Falconbridge uses the word, and says :

By heaven, these *scroyles* of Angiers flout you, kings.

Mr. Howard Staunton, in his edition of Shakespeare, derives the word from the French, *ecrouelle*, a 'scabby rogue.'

**Sculsh**, any trashy sweetmeats or green fruit : such as children are fond of eating.



**Scutch**, to bruise slightly; whence, by corruption, to *scotch*. In the sense of to bruise flax, the word is still pronounced *scutch*, in the English manufacturing districts.

We've *scotched* [scutched] the snake, not killed it.

*Shakespeare: Macbeth.*

**Second-grandfather**, a word used by the peasantry in the North of England to express what in common, but less correct and elegant, English is called a 'great-grandfather.' A *third* great-grandfather, means in like manner, a 'great-great-great-grandfather.' As the phrase is capable of indefinite extension, it seems a loss to literature that its use should be left wholly to the unwritten speech of the people. A tenth remove of great-grandfatherhood would be difficult to designate by ten repetitions of the word 'great,' but would be easy, as well as graceful, by the popular method.

**Seethe**, } to boil. The translators of the Bible have preserved  
**Sod**, } this old English word, which was in common use  
**Sodden**, } before its modern synonyme was borrowed with  
 other culinary phrases from the Norman-French.

And he said unto his servant, Set on the great pot, and *seethe* pottage for the sons of the prophet.—2 *Kings* iv. 38.

Go suck the subtle blood o' th' grape  
 Till the high fever *seethe* your blood to froth.

*Shakespeare: Timon of Athens.*

*Seethe* stanes in butter, the brew will be good.

*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

It is unsavorye  
 Y-sodden or y-baken.—*Piers Ploughman.*

My eyes are *seething* in my head,  
 My flesh roasting also.—*The Fire of Frendraught.*

The absence of the name of General Rosecrans from the lists of recent promotions has caused much comment. The reason need be no secret. Between Grant and Rosecrans there is waging an irrepressible conflict. Courteous in words, they fairly *seethe* with concealed hatred.

*New York Daily News, May 7, 1866.*

**Seld**, }  
**Selde**, } seldom.  
**Selden**, }

**Selkouth**, } from *kouth*, *couth*, or *kythe*; to show, appear, or  
**Selkethe**, } be known; meaning seldom seen; strange, or  
 unusual.

**Seremonth**, August. The month when the leaves begin to dry—  
or be *sere*.

**Shack**, to rove about idly, to loiter, to go on the tramp.

**Shackaback**, } an idle vagabond.  
**Shackler**,

They call me *shackaback*,  
And knave and lazy loon,  
Because, though hale and strong,  
I'm idle all day long ;  
And carol to the glimmer of the moon.

*Under Green Leaves*, 1860.

In Jamieson's 'Scottish Dictionary,' to *shack* is described as meaning to shape or form anything in an oblique way. Thus, an idle vagabond, who goes on the tramp rather than do any work, *shacks*, or goes off obliquely from the true path of honesty. The root of the word is probably the Gaelic *seach*, pronounced *sheach*, to turn away, to avoid.

**Shackle**, the wrist ; whence the verb to shackle, to fetter. The modern shackle was formerly schackle-lock or schacklock, i.e., wrist lock.

**Shad**, preterite of shed.

Then for us He *shad* His blood,  
And also dyed on the rode.

*Old Christmas Carols*, edited by T. Wright.

**Shaftmond**, the measure of the palm of the hand with the thumb extended.

A *shaftmonde* large.—*Morte Arthur*.

The word is still current in Scotland and the North of England.

**Shale**, a husk ; whence the modern word shell ; to shell peas, or remove them from the husk or pod.

**Shalm**, a trumpet.

In cornemuse and *shalmes*,  
And many another pipe.—*Chaucer*.

He caused all the players of *shalmes* to come out of the city.

*North's Plutarch*.

**Shalm**—*continued*.

This word was also written *shawm*, as in the following quotations :

What stately music have you ?  
You have *shawms* ?—*Beaumont and Fletcher*.

In prayers and hymns to Heaven's eternal King,  
The cornet, flute, and *shawm*, assisting as they sing.  
*Otway: Windsor Castle.*

**Shamster**, one who shams.

**Shape**, } to make, to create, to put into form. The old pre-  
**Shope**, } terite and past participle of this verb have long been  
**Shopen**, } obsolete, and do not seem to have been used in  
English literature after the time of Chaucer.

God *shope* the world.—*Wickliffe's Bible*.

The king and the commune  
*Shopen* laws.—*Piers Ploughman*.

To which this sempnour *shope* him for to wende.  
*Chaucer: The Frere's Tale.*

**Shapster**, }  
**Shapester**, } a milliner ; one who shapes the dress to the form.  
**Shepster**, }

Mabyll the *shapster* maketh surplices, shirts, breeches, keverchifs and all that may be wrought of linen cloth.

*Caxton's Booke for Travellers (Nares).*

**Shard**, } fragments of brittle substances, such as stone, marble,  
**Sherd**, } slate, glass, pottery, &c. ; from shear, to cut off.  
Hence the scales of serpents, or the shining wing cases of beetles, and other insects, hard, and as if made of a different substance from the rest of their bodies, were metaphorically called *shards* or *sherds*.

Thou shalt break the *sherds* thereof.  
*Ezekiel* xxiii. 34.

For charitable prayers,  
*Shards*, flints, and pebbles, should be thrown on her.  
*Shakespeare: Hamlet.*

Where the pig's (earthenware vessel) broken, let the *sherds* lie.  
*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

**Shard**—*continued.*

For longe tyme it so befelle,  
That with his sworde, and with his spere,  
He might mete the serpent dere :  
He was so *sherded* all aboute,  
It helde all edge toole withoute.

*Gower : Confessio Amantis.*

**Sherd,** } the dung of cattle, when dried by exposure in the  
**Shard,** } fields. Considerable controversy has arisen as to the  
**Sharn,** } sense in which Shakespeare used the phrase '*shard*-  
born beetle,' in Macbeth ; whether he meant *sherd*-born, i.e.,  
born amid cow dung ; or *shard*-borne, borne in the air on  
shards or wings. In 'Cymbeline,' he says :

And often to our comfort we shall find,  
The *sharded* beetle in a safer hold,  
Than is the full-winged eagle.

This passage seems to refer to '*shard*,' a wing, rather than to '*shard*,' dung. The Anglo-Saxon for cow-sherd or shard, was *scearn* or *sharn* ; which pronunciation still survives in the North of England and Scotland.

**Sharm,** } to make a buzzing, confused, chattering noise ; as of  
**Swarm,** } a crowd of people, children, or birds ; the same as  
chirm or churm, *q. v.*

And though they *sharme* and crie, I care not a might.

*Digby Mysteries (Halliwell).*

**Shaw,** a small wood, thicket, or plantation of trees. This word was once common in English literature, and still subsists in the patronymics of many families ; as Shawe, Aldershaw, Hinshaw, Abershaw, Hawkshaw (or Oakshaw), and others ; and is still used by the peasantry in most parts of England and Scotland.

Whither ridest thou under this green *shawe* ?  
Said this yeman.—*Chaucer : The Frere's Tale.*  
Gaillard he was a gold-finch in the *shaw*,  
Brown as a bery, a proper short felaw.

*Chaucer : The Clerk's Tale.*

Close hid beneath the greenwood *shaw*.

*Fairfax : Translation of Tasso.*

In summer when the *shawes* be shene,  
And leaves be fair and long,

It is full merry in fair forest,

To hear the sweet birds' song.—*Ballad of Robin Hood.*

**Shaw**—*continued*.

The braes ascend like lofty wa's,  
 The foaming stream deep-roaring fa's,  
 O'erhung wi' fragrant spreading *shaws*,  
 The birks of Aberfeldy.—*Burns*.

Gloomy winter's now awa,  
 Saft the westlin' breezes blaw,  
 Mang the birks o' Stanley *shaw*,  
 The mavis sings fu' cheery, O.—*Tannahill*.

**Shawp**, an empty husk ; a pea-pod, or bean-pod.

**Sheal**, } to put under cover. To *sheal* the sheap, i.e., to put  
**Shiel**, } them under cover ; from the Gaelic *sgail*, to cover.

**Shieling**, }  
**Shealing**, } a shepherd's hut, a covering.

Ten miles from any town this *shieling* lies.

*Ross's Helenore*.

**Shear**, } to cut closely off. The ancient preterite is obso-  
**Sheer**, } lete, and has been superseded by the regular form  
**Shore**, or } in *ed*. The sea-shore, i.e., the strip of land *sheared*,  
**Shure**, } *shore*, or *shorn* by the action of the waves, is the  
**Shorn**, } sole relic of this word in modern parlance.

Robin *shure* in hairst [harvest],  
 I *shure* wi' him.—*Burns*.

Boston was the Delilah that allured him [Daniel Webster]. Oft he broke the withes of gold, till at last she *shore* off his locks, and his strength went from him.

*Theodore Parker : Discourse on the Death of Daniel Webster*.

**Sheen**. Nares defines this word to mean, shining as an adjective, or brightness as a noun ; but the true derivation is from the German *schön*, beautiful. It is used by Shakespeare and Milton in the sense which Nares attributes to it.

By fountain clear or spangled starlight *sheen*.

*Shakespeare : Midsummer Night's Dream*.

And thirty dozen moons with borrowed *sheen*.

*Shakespeare : Hamlet*.

Chaucer, King James I. of Scotland, Spenser, and the early metrical romancers, use it in its true sense of *schön*, or beautiful.

Your blissful sister Lucina, the *sheen*,  
 That of the sea is chief goddess and queen.

*Chaucer : The Franklin's Tale*.

**Sheen**—*continued.*

Her garment was so bright and wondrous *sheene*,  
That my fraile wit cannot devise to what  
It to compare.

*Spenser: Faerie Queene.*

After sharpe showers,  
Most *sheen* is the sun.

*Piers Ploughman.*

On his long yellow lockis *sheen*,  
A chaplet had he, all of levis green.

*The King's Quair.*

The wedding ring was forth brought,  
Guy then and fair Felice thought,  
He had her nigh forgotten clean,  
Alas ! he said, Felice the *sheen* !

Penance I crave,  
None other maid my love shall have.

*Guy of Warwick.*

Her skin that was both bright and *sheen*.

*Sir Bevis of Hampton.*

Richmond in Surrey received the name of *Sheen*, from its beauty, not from its brightness.

Byron, though following Shakespeare, seems to be wrong in using the word *sheen* in the sense of *shine* in the following passage :

The Assyrian came down like a wolf on the fold,  
And his cohorts were gleaming in purple and gold.  
And the *sheen* of their spears was like stars on the sea.

*Hebrew Melodies.*

Mr. Tennyson in his poem of 'Love and Death,' is also wrong in the use of the word *sheeny*, which is in reality a mere mis-spelling of shiny :

'You must begone !' said Death, 'these walks are mine ;'  
Love wept and spread his *sheeny* vans for flight.

Coleridge uses it both correctly and incorrectly in the 'Ancient Mariner :

The upper air burst into life,  
And an hundred fire flags *sheen*,  
To and fro they were hurried about.

In this passage the word is synonymous with *schön*. In the following it is a mis-spelling of shine :

And through the drifts, the snowy cliffs  
Did send a dismal *sheen*,

**Shend**, *v.*, to rebuke ; to blame ; to shame.

**Shent**, rebuked.

Spenser in the 'Faerie Queene,' and Thomson in the 'Castle of Indolence,' use this word. Dryden, according to Dr. Johnson, was the last author of note who employed it.

Vengeance, vengeance,  
Forgiven be it never,  
That *shente* us, and shed our bloode.  
*Piers Ploughman.*

What say you, sir?  
I am *shent* for speaking to you.  
*Shakespeare: Twelfth Night.*

Sorely *shent* with this rebuke.  
Sorely *shent* was the heir o' Linne.  
*The Heir of Linne.*

Though bending from the blast of eastern storms;  
Though *shent* their leaves, and shattered are their arms.  
He that shames, let him be *shent*.  
*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

**Shevel**, to distort; to walk in an oblique and unsteady manner.

**Shinicle**, a bonfire. A distant fire or light; a little shine.—  
*Jamieson.*

**Ship-master**, the master of a ship, a word preferable to 'captain,' which is a military title, and which, if allowable in the case of an officer in the naval service of the sovereign, is not appropriate to that of a mere employé in the mercantile marine.

**Shive,** } a large slice.  
**Sheeve,** }

**Shiver**, a small slice.

A man shall not find a *sheve* of it to fetch fire in.  
*Halliwel.*

Have I nought of a capon but the liver?  
And of your white bread nought but a *shiver*.  
*Chaucer: The Somnour's Tale.*

Easy it is  
Of a cut loaf, to steal a *shive* we know.  
*Shakespeare: Titus Andronicus.*

Bannocks and a *sheeve* of cheese,  
Will make a breakfast that a laird might please.  
*Allan Ramsay: The Gentle Shepherd.*

**Shoon**, ancient plural of shoe.

**Shoon**—*continued.*

And how should I your true love know,  
 From any another one?  
 O, by his cockle hat and staff,  
 And by his sandal *shoon*.

*Shakespeare: Hamlet.*

The disuse of the Anglo-Saxon plural in *n* and *en*, is one of the greatest losses which the English language has suffered; and combined with the simultaneous disuse of *eth*, in the third person singular in the present tense of verbs, aggravates the tendency to sibillation or hissing, which makes English the most unvocal of all modern tongues.

**Shope**, preterite of shape or create.

God *shope* the world.—*Wicliffe's Bible*.

Lord that *shope* both heat and cold.

*Guy of Warwick.*

Wymmen were the best thing,  
 That *shope* our high Heaven King.

*Advice to the Fair Sex: Ritson's Ancient Songs and Ballads.*

The king and the commune,

\* \* \* \*

*Shopen* laws.

*Piers Ploughman.*

**Shote**, a young hog.

Jamieson's Dictionary has 'shot,' a half-grown swine, a word in use in the Lothians.

In America a very common expression of contempt applied to a man of no ability or character, is that 'he is a poor *shote*.'

**Shram**, to shrivel with cold.

Shrammed; benumbed with cold,

*Halliwel.*

It was a cold, damp evening, and I found four miles an hour on 'shanks's pony' only enough to keep me warm; but I am glad to say that his Majesty was the only one of the party in two open carriages who did not, to use a Wiltshirism, look '*shrammed* with cold.'

*Daily Telegraph*, Nov. 1, 1866.

**Shread**, } to cut off the ends, to lop. The old preterite has  
**Shred**, } long been obsolete, but survives as a noun, *shred*,  
 a thing lopped off or cut off, a remnant:

The superfluous and waste sprigs of vines being *shreaded* off.

*Withall's Dictionary*, 1608.

A *shredder* of trees.—*Nares*.



Shreed, } to clothe, to cover.  
 Shred, } clothed, covered.  
 Shrowd, } a garment, a covering.

Bevis of his palfrey alight,  
 And *shredde* the palmer as a knight.  
*Bevis of Hampton.*

In a kirtel of silk he gan him *shreede*.  
*Guy of Warwick.*

Worthy to be *shredde* and shrined in gold.  
*Morte Arthur.*

I shope me in a *shrowde* as I a shepherd were.  
*Piers Ploughman.*

The princes were even compelled by the hail, to seek some *shrowd*-ing place.—*Sidney: Arcadia.*

There was a place called the *shrowds* at Paul's Cross; a covered space on the side of the church to protect the congregation in inclement seasons.—*Pennant's London.*

The word *shroud* applied to the clothing of a dead body is still used.

**Shrew**, this word, as a substantive, seems to have been originally applied to both sexes, and to have meant an ill-conditioned, ill-natured, malicious, bad person. As a verb, with the prefix, *be*, it was used as an imprecation, signifying to curse, as 'beshrew me if I do;' i.e., 'curse me if I do.' Some lexicographers have erroneously derived the word from the *shrew*-mouse; but shrew-mouse really means an ill-natured and ferocious kind of mouse.

*Shrew*, a kind of field mouse, which, if he go over a beast's back, will make him lame in the chine; and if he bite, the beast swells to the heart and dies. From hence came our English phrase, '*I beshrew thee*,' when we wish ill to any one. And we call a curst woman a *shrew*.—*Blount's Glossographia, or Dictionary of Hard Words*, 1680.

I *beshrewe* me,  
 But if I telle tales two or three of Freres.  
*Chaucer: Wife of Bath's Tale.*

Arise, Roland, and fight,  
 And shed the *shrew's* blood,  
 For he was never good,  
 By land nor by sea.—*Sir Otuel.*

Thou black *shrew*,  
 Thou art a foul thing, gotten amiss,  
 No man wot who thy father is.

*Merlin.*

**Shrew**—*continued.*

In the 'Evergreen, or Poems written by the Ingenious before 1600,' the author of the 'Pedder Coffes,' calls cheating pedlars,

Shameless *shrews*.

Shakespeare uses the word for both sexes :

By this reckoning he's more *shrew* than she.

And in 'Love's Labour's Lost,' the Princess says :

I *bescrew* all *shrews*.

The current meaning of the word, and of its adjective *shrewish*, as applied to a scolding wife, seems to be due entirely to its use by Shakespeare.

Cotton, in the 'Joys of Marriage,' has :

If too wary then she'll *shrew* thee,  
If too lavish she'll undo thee.

The Americans use the word *curse*, or as they pronounce it 'cuss,' in a similar sense, both as verb and noun. 'A Yankee,' said an indignant slave-owner at New Orleans, 'is a mean *cuss*.' A *shrewish* woman is also called a *cuss*.

The word *shrewd*, in the sense of far-seeing, sagacious, cunning, is generally supposed to be derived from *shrew*, but the connection is not obvious.

**Shrive**, to confess.

**Shrove**,  
**Shriven**, } confessed.

The infinitive and past participle of this verb are not quite obsolete. Shrove, the preterite, survives in Shrove Tuesday.

**Shrift**, a confession. Short *shrift*, i.e., a short time allowed for the confession of the criminal between the passing of the sentence and the execution.

**Shunt**, to turn off, or aside ; a word lately re-introduced into the language by railway engineers and workmen.

**Shruck**, preterite of shriek ; to cry out.

**Sib**, related to by blood or marriage. 'An ancient Saxon word,' says Ray, 'signifying kindred, alliance, or affinity.' The Cheshire proverb, quoted by Halliwell, has : 'We are

**Sib**—*continued.*

no more *sib* than sieve and riddle, that both grew in the woods together.' A Scotch proverb in Allan Ramsay's collection, says : ' A' Stuarts are no *sib* to the king ; ' A vaunter and a liar are right *sib* ; ' and ' It's good to be *sib* to siller.'

An ye be but *sib* to some of these sisters seven.

*Piers Ploughman.*

He was *sib* to Arthur of Bretayne.—*Chaucer.*

He is no fairy born or *sib* to elves.—*Spenser.*

Let the blood of mine that's *sib* to him, be sucked from me with leeches ; let him break and fall off me with that corruption.

*Beaumont and Fletcher.*

**Sile,** } to run over, to slide down, or subside ; as sand in  
**Syle,** } water.

**Silth,** that which has subsided ; as the *silth* of a river or lake, erroneously contracted into *silt*.

**Siss,** } a term of endearment ; applied to a female child in  
**Sissie,** } America ; from the first syllable of ' sister.' This word is supposed by some to be purely American, and to be derived from *sis* and *asiss*, signifying *little* in several native Indian dialects. Mr. Halliwell, partially aware of the English, and unaware of the American use of the word, appears to lean to the opinion that *sis* is an abbreviation of *Cicely*, ' a common name for a girl.' He quotes :

The showman that in times past was contented to russet, must now-a-days have his doublet of the fashion, with wide cuts, his garters of fine silk of Granada, to meet his *Siss* on Sunday.

*Lodge's Wit's Miserie*, 1598.

**Sistren,** } the ancient plural of sister. Chaucer speaks of the  
**Sustren,** } Fates, or weird sisters, as ' the fatal sustren.' Bartlett's Dictionary of Americanisms, says that the word is a ' vulgarism, sometimes heard from uneducated preachers at the West ; ' and quotes from ' Carlton's New Purchase,' the following example :

Brethren and *sistren*, it is a powerful great work, this here preaching of the gospel.

It appears, however, that the word was not vulgar in Chaucer's time, and is as well entitled to a place in pulpit eloquence, as its equally antique partner—brethren.

**Sistren**—*continued.*

All *sustren* and bretheren,  
That beth (be) of our ordre.—*Piers Ploughman.*

**Sithence,** } since.  
**Sith,**

I came to my lady kith,  
I was yet sobre never *sith*.  
*Gower: Confessio Amantis.*

*Sith* 'twill no bitter be,  
I trust I have within my realm  
Five hundred good as he.  
*Ballad of Chevy Chase.*

*Sith* 'twas my fault to give the people scope.  
*Shakespeare: Measure for Measure.*

*Sith* thou hast not hated blood, even blood shall pursue thee.  
*Ezekiel, chap. xxv.*

**Sith,** } time or times.  
**Sithe,**

And humbly thanked him a thousand *sith*.  
*Spenser: Faerie Queene.*

Of his coming the king was blithe,  
And rejoiced a hundred *sithe*.  
*Bevis of Hampton.*

**Sitheundman**, the oldest inhabitant ; one who knows what has happened a long time since ; one known for a long time. The chief man in a town, district, or parish.

**Skam**, preterite of skim ; to take off the froth or upboiling of a liquid ; whence also *scum*.

**Skart**, the cormorant.

Like *skarts* upon the wing, by the hope of plunder led.  
*The Invasion of the Norsemen.*

**Skelp**, to smack, to administer a blow with the palm of the hand.

I'm sure sma' pleasure it can gie,  
E'en to a deil,  
To *skelp* and scaud poor dogs like me  
And hear us squeel !"  
*Burns: Address to the Deil.*

**Skelpie-limmer**, a violent woman, ready both with her hands and tongue.

**Skelpie-limmer**—*continued*.

Ye little *skelpie-limmer's* face !  
How daur ye try sic sportin'.

*Burns : Halloween.*

**Skelly**, to squint.

The very man, said Bothwell, he *skellies* fearfully with one eye.  
*Sir Walter Scott.*

**Skene**, a knife, a sword, from the Gaelic *sgian*, a knife ; early used as an English word.

The Saxons \* \* the very noblest were,  
And of those crooked *skains* (skenes) they used in war to bear.  
*Drayton's Polyolbion.*

His arme is long,  
In which he shakes a *skene*, bright, broad, and long,  
*Heywood.*

**Skew**, to turn aside ; whence to look *askew*.

*Skew* your eye towards the magnet.—*Halliwel.*

The water *skeweth*.—*MS. Cotton, quoted by Halliwel.*

**Skime**, to look at a person furtively ; or with half-shut eyes pretending not to see.**Skyme**, a glance or gleam of light.

The *skyme* o' her e'en was like dewy sheen.  
*Lady Mary of Craignethan.*

**Skenk**, } liquor ; to draw or pour out liquor ; from the German  
**Skink**, } *schenken*, to pour out.

**Skinker**, a waiter ; one who pours out liquor at a tavern.

Such wine as Ganymede doth *skink* to Jove.—*Shirley.*

*Skink* out the first glass.  
*Ben Jonson.*

Sweet Ned, \* \* \* I give thee this pennyworth of sugar, clapt  
even now into my hand by an under-*skinker*.  
*Shakespeare : Henry IV., part i.*

Until he falls asleep he *skinks* and drinks.  
*Taylor, The Water Poet, 1630.*

But no fear affrights deep drinkers,  
There I toss'd it with my *skinkers*.  
*Drunken Barnaby's Journal.*

**Skink**—*continued.*

The bowl went round the board,  
Which empty'd the rude *skinker* still restored.  
*Dryden's Homer.*

The wine ! there was hardly half a mutchkin, and pair fusionless  
*skink* it was.—*Sir Walter Scott.*

In the glossary to Ramsay's 'Poems' (1723), *skink* is described as a strong broth, made of the shins of beef. 'Skink,' says Blount's 'Glossographia' (1684), 'is, in Scotland, a kind of pottage of strong nourishment made of knuckles and sinews of beef long boiled.'

**Skirl**, to shriek, to cry out ; or to make a loud noise on a wind instrument. This word is never used to express the shriek or scream of pain, but is suggestive either of anger or boisterous glee. In 'Tam o' Shanter,' the 'deil,' on the window-ledge of Alloway Kirk, screwed up the bagpipes, and made them *skirl* so loudly that the vibration shook the rafters.

Ye have given the sound thump, and he the loud *skirl* ; (i.e., you have beaten the man, and he shows it by his roaring).  
*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

When *skirling* weanies see the light,  
Thou makes the gossips clatter bright.  
*Burns : Scotch Drink.*

**Skirm**, to fence : from the French *escrime*, whence also *skirmish*.

**Skyte**, to drive and pelt like rain or hail before the wind.

When hailstones drive wi' bitter *skyte*.  
*Burns : The Jolly Beggars.*

**Slade**, a narrow valley on a mountain side.

Down through the deeper *slade*.  
*Drayton.*

**Slake**, } to cool with water ; to quench, to extinguish. The  
**Sloke**, } preterite and past participle are nearly obsolete. In  
**Sloken**, } some of the northern counties it is usual to say that  
'the fire is *sloken*.'

From henceforth my rest is my travaille,  
My dry thirst with teris must I *sloken*.  
*The King's Quair.*

**Slake**—*continued.*

Some hidden place wherein to *slake* the gnawing of my mind.  
*Earl of Surrey.*

In Richardson's Dictionary, *slake* and *slack*, to slacken, retard or make slow, are held to be of the same signification.

Todd's 'Johnson' gives the following examples of its use by early writers in a different sense :

And *slake* the heavenly fire that raged evermore.  
*Spenser.*

If I digged up thy forefathers' graves,  
 And hung their rotten coffins up in chains,  
 It could not *slake* mine ire.  
*Shakespeare.*

And with the crystal stream their thirst at pleasure *slake*.  
*Blackmore.*

The Rev. John Hough was one day admonishing one of his people on the sin of intemperance. 'Man, John! you should never drink except when ye're dry.' 'Weel,' replied John, 'I never dae! but I'm never *sloekened*.'—*Dean Ramsay.*

**Sleech**, the mud or soft sand at the bottom of lakes or rivers, when taken away and used as manure.

**Sleech**, to ladle or dip out water or broth.

**Sleepaway**, to die without disease, peaceably, and by gradual decrease of the powers of nature.

**Sleeple**, to slumber ; to have a little sleep.

Mirthe of their mouthes,  
 Made me there to *sleeple*.  
*Piers Ploughman.*

**Sleeve**, a favour ; a badge, a love-token ; something given *aus liebe*, out of love or gallantry.

I'll grow friend with danger. Wear this *sleeve*.  
*Troilus and Cressida.*

Shining in armour bright before the tilt,  
 And with thy mistress' *sleeve* tied on thy helme.  
*Nares.*

**Sleeveless**, without love-token, badge, or sign of favour ; whence the common phrase, not yet obsolete, 'a *sleeveless*'

**Sleeveless—continued.**

errand,' one from which no reward, encouragement, or favour is to be got.

**Sleight**, skill, a trick ; from the Gaelic *slighe*, a stratagem, and *sligeach*, sly, dexterous, cunning ; whence the modern phrase, 'sleight of hand.'

By muckel *sleight*,  
As it becometh a conqueror,

To konne manye *sleights*,  
And many wiles and wit.

*Piers Ploughman.*

**Sleith**, slyness, contrivance, cunning.

**Sleithly**, slyly, cunningly.

What weenest thou Him who knowest all,  
To deceive with thy *sleithly* wile?

*Lydgate, quoted by Halliwell.*

**Slent,** } to jest slyly or untruthfully ; to lie. ;  
**Slant,** }

'He *slants* a good deal,' a proverbial expression in the North, quoted by Brockett ; i.e., he lies, or *slants* from the right line of truth.

And when Cleopatra found Antonius' jests and *slents* to be but gross and soldier like, \* \* \* she without fear taunted him thoroughly.

*North's Plutarch.*

One Proteus, a pleasant, conceited fellow, that could *slent* finely.

*Idem.*

**Sleuth**, to track an animal, or a person, to a shelter or hiding-place ; whence the word 'sleuth-hound,' formerly used in Scotland. In the South of England, *leuth* signifies a shelter ; and sleuth is probably a contraction of *disleuth*, to dislodge from a place of shelter. In the Border ballad of 'Hobbie Noble,' the word is spelt *slough*-hounds. In the spirited ballad of the 'Fray of Suport,' one of the characters is represented as sitting

Wi' his *sleuth-dog* in his watch-right sure ;  
Should the dog gie a bark,  
He'll be out in his sark,  
And die or win !

In Thomson's 'English Etymons,' *slouth* is said to mean a company of wild beasts, a troop of bears or wolves, which



**Sleuth**—*continued*.

suggests another derivation; *slot*, in the same volume, is defined the track or beat of a deer; and in Yorkshire, to *slot* a beast is to set a dog at him.

*Sleuthe* with his slyng,  
A hard assault he made.

*Piers Ploughman.*

**Slick**, smooth, glossy. This word is not a vulgarism or an Americanism, as generally supposed, but a more ancient and genuine English word than its synonyme *sleek*, by which it has been partially superseded. The ancient pronunciation appears in Chaucer, who makes it rhyme to *chick*.

Her flesh tender as is a chicke,  
With bent browes, smoothe and *slike*.

*Chaucer: Romance of the Rose.*

The mole's a creature very smooth and *slick*.

*Book for Boys and Girls, 1636.*

The word has recently acquired an extension of meaning both in America and England, and signifies: rapidly, effectually, thoroughly, clean.

The railroad company, out of sheer parsimony, have neglected to fence in their line, which goes *slick* through the centre of your garden.

*Blackwood's Magazine, July, 1847.*

I've heard tell that courtin's the hardest thing in the world to begin; though it goes on *slick* enough afterwards.

*Traits of American Humour.*

**Slid**, slippery.

**Sliddery**, slippery.

**Slidness**, slipperiness.

Ye hae sae saft a voice and *slid* a tongue.

*Allan Ramsay: The Gentle Shepherd.*

There's a *sliddery* stane before the ha' door; (i.e., they who visit above their station, may slip).

*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

**Slide**, to disappear from sight; to go out of one's thought or concern.

'Let it *slide*,' is a common phrase in America, and sup-

**Slide**—*continued.*

posed to be an Americanism ; but the word occurs in the same sense in Chaucer and Shakespeare.

Lord Walter, in the 'Clerke's Tale,' was so addicted to the sport of hawking, that

Well nigh all other cares let he *slyde*.  
Chaucer.

Let her sorrow *slide*.  
*Idem.*

Let the world *slide*.  
Shakespeare: *Taming of the Shrew.*

**Slive**, to do anything furtively or slily ; to sneak, to skulk.

**Slive**, to slip down.

**Slove**, } slipped down ; loosened like an untidy garment ;  
**Sloven**, } whence the word *slovenly*.

**Sliver**, to cut in long shreds or slices.

The harme of which I would fain deliver,  
Alas ! that he all whole, or of him *sliver*,  
Should have his repute.  
Chaucer: *Troilus and Cressida.*

She that herself will *sliver* and disbranch,  
From her material sap, perforce must wither,  
And come to deadly use.  
Shakespeare: *King Lear.*

There on the pendant boughs her coronet weeds,  
Clambering to hang, an envious *sliver* broke.  
Shakespeare: *Hamlet.*

This word is always pronounced in America, as Chaucer seems to have pronounced it, with the *i* short. In modern English the *i* is usually long.

**Sloach**, to drink heavily.

**Slock**, to entice away ; to inveigle.

**Slockster**, one that slocks or entices away another man's servants.—*Blount's Glossographia*, 1684.

**Slodder**, slippery, tenacious ; adhesive mud or slush.

**Slogan**, the war-cry of a Scottish clan ; a word not to be confounded with *pibroch*, a musical composition for the bagpipes, as has been sometimes done by English writers.

**Sloom**, to sleep heavily and soundly ; distinguished from *slumber*, to sleep lightly.

**Sloomy**, dull, lazy.

**Slop**, preterite of slip.

**Sloppe**, a garment ; something slipped on. *Slop* clothes and *slop* tailors, are current phrases in the present day ; but it appears from Chaucer, that in his time, any loose garment was called a *sloppe*.

His overest *sloppe* it is not worth a mite ;

Chaucer : *The Chanone's Tale*.

**Slorp**, to eat greedily and with a guttural noise.

There's gentle John and Jock the *slorp*,  
And curly Jock, and burly Jock,  
And lying Jock himsel.—*Jacobite Relics*.

**Slote**, the pit of the stomach.

Through the brain and the breast, with his bright weapon,  
Slant down to the *slote* he slittes at once.—*Morte Arthur*.

**Slotter**, to make a noise with the palate in eating. To feed like an animal ; synonymous with *slorp*.

**Slotterhodge**, a coarse-feeding clown.

*Famieson*.

**Sloy**, a slatternly woman.

How tedious were a shrew, a *sloy*, a wanton, or a fool.

*Nares*.

**Slub**, } thick mire.  
**Slab**, }

Shakespeare, in the Witch Scene in 'Macbeth,' makes the witch say :

Make the gruel thick and *slab*.

**Slug**, to be lazy and sleepy ; whence 'sluggard,' a lazy man ; and 'slug' applied to the earth worm from its slow motions.

He used to *slug* and sleep in slothful shade.

*Spenser : Faerie Queene*.

**Slut**, preterite of slit.

**Smatter**, a heap of small objects in motion ; also, to be busily engaged about small affairs ; whence a *smattering* of knowledge.

**Smatters**, small matters, trifles ; small sums of money.

**Smeke**, to flatter a man to his face, and overdo it ; from the German *schmeicheln*, to flatter.

**Smell-feast**, a parasite ; an habitual diner out, a sponge, a sorner.

Mercurius, commonly called Captain of *Smell-feasts*.

*Nares.*

**Smerl**, a smock, a shift, a woman's under-garment.

**Smerly**, demure looking.

**Smeth**, the preterite of smooth ; a word still used in many parts of England for a depilatory, that *smoothes* the skin. The unguent is sometimes called a *smothery*.

**Smither**, a small fragment ; whence the vulgar colloquialism, *smithereens*.

**Smirl**, a mischievous or roguish trick.

I'll play him a *smirl* for that yet.—*Jamieson*.

**Smock**, a woman's under-garment ; from the German *schmucken*, to adorn ; a much better word than the modern *chemise* ; and the common vulgarism, *shimmy*. The word survives in 'smock-frock,' a farm labourer's over-garment. 'Lady's smock' is the common name, preserved in Shakespeare, of the white convolvulus. This word also signifies an over as well as under garment ; a dress ; a robe ; as in the following :

Believe me if my wedding *smock* were on,  
Were the gloves bought and given,

\*                      \*                      \*

I would not wed that year.

*Baumont and Fletcher : The Scornful Lady.*

**Smock-frock**, an over-garment, formerly, and still worn, by English farm labourers ; the French *blouse*.

**Smock-faced**, pale-faced ; with a face like a young woman.—*Ash's Dictionary*, 1775.

**Smolt**, smooth, shiny, glossy; from *smolten*, ancient participle of *smelt*.

**Smoothen**, to smooth.

Mrs. Transome worked to *smoothen* the current of his dialogue.  
*Felix Holt, the Radical*, 1866.

**Smore**, to smother.

**Smore**, a swarm or gathering of people; not so many as to be called a crowd.

**Smuly**, } sly and demure.  
**Smooly**, }

**Smure**, preterite of *smore*; smothered.

**Snack**, quick, active; whence a 'snack,' a hasty meal.

**Snag**, a tooth standing in the mouth by itself, or a projection on a tree where a branch has been lopped off at some distance from the trunk. To this word the Americans owe their name for the peculiar danger of the Mississippi.

How thy *snag* teeth stand orderly,  
Like stakes by the water side.—*Wit's Interpreter*, 1671.

His weapon was a tall and *snaggy* oak.—*Heywood*, 1609.

**Snarl**, a difficulty, an entanglement; a knot. This word, almost obsolete in England, is common in America.

Let Hymen's easy *snarls* be quite forgot.—*Quarles' Emblems*.

And from her head oft reft her *snarled* hair.

*Spenser: Faerie Queene*.

You *snarle* yourself into so many and such heinous absurdities as you shall never be able to winde yourself out.

*Cranmer's Answer to Bishop Gardiner*.

**Snathe**, to prune trees.

**Snaught**, ancient preterite of *snatch*; formed on the same principle as *caught*, from *catch*.

**Snap**, }  
**Sneap**, } to check, chide, or rebuke angrily; nip with unkind-  
**Sneb**, } ness; whence *snub*, the preterite of this verb, now  
**Snib**, } used as the infinitive.  
**Snub**, }

The two first of these five words have almost disappeared from literature and conversation, to make room for the last;

**Sneap**—*continued*.

though *sneap* is scarcely worthy of the honour, considering how much Shakespeare and other poets have done to make *sneap* familiar to us.

No *sneaping* wind at home to make us say,  
This is put forth too early.—*Shakespeare: Winter's Tale*.

Biron is like an envious *sneaping* frost,  
That bites the first born infants of the spring.

*Shakespeare: Love's Labour's Lost*.

I will not undergo this *sneap* without reply.

*Shakespeare: Henry IV.*

Do you *sneap* me too, my Lord?—*Browne's Antipodes*.

And on a time he cast him for to scold,

And *snebbe* the good oak.

*Spenser: Shepherd's Calendar*.

**Sneath**, the handle of a scythe.

**Sned**, to prune, lop, shear, mow.

And legs and arms and heads he'll *sned*

Like taps o' thistles.—*Burns*.

**Snell**, sharp, active, lively, piercing; from the German *schnell*, quick. Johnson affirms the word to be obsolete, and Richardson ignores it altogether.

He answered *snell*,

Berynnus I am named.—*Chaucer*.

A handy man and *snell*

In tournament, and elce in fight.—*Morte Arthur*.

Fought stout and *snell*,

And stood about him in the stour.—*The Reid's Quair*.

One rough night the blattering winds blew *snell*.

*Allan Ramsay*.

Shivering for cold, the season was so *snell*.

*Gavin Douglas: Translation of Virgil*.

This *snell* lass that came with me.—*Ross's Helenore*.

And when the day was done,

They rode out *snell*.—*Ritson*.

Not Boreas that so *snelly* blows.—*Ferguson*.

**Snick**, the latchet of a door.

**Snick-drawing**, entering a house or door by stealth.

And you, ye auld *snick-drawing* dog,

Ye came to Paradise incog.

*Burns: Address to the Deil*.

**Snidge**, to hang and sponge upon a person; to sorn.

**Snipe**, a cutting remark ; a sarcasm.

**Snipsy**, sarcastic.

**Snirl**, to shrivel up.

**Snirp**, to wither.

**Snirt**, a short, suppressed laugh.

**Snirtle**, to attempt to suppress one's laughter.

**Snite**, a snout or nose.

**Snite**, to blow the nose ; of which the preterite was *snot*, a word that has become vulgar, to signify not the blowing of the nose, but what is blown from it.—See *Nares*.

**Snithe**, cold, sharp, and cutting ; said of the east wind.

Let's spang (close) our gates,

It's varra *snithe*,

It will be frost belive.—*Yorkshire Dialogue*, 1667.

**Snod**, preterite of *sned* ; mown, shorn, pruned. *Snodgrass*, a well-known patronymic, means mown, or shorn grass.

Your *snod* remarks and pointed style.—*Galloway's Poems*.

**Snood**, a band or fillet for the hair, worn by unmarried girls. This word is still common in Scotland, and the North of England.

Yon gentlewoman with the saffron *snude*.

*Two Lancashire Lovers*, 1640.

**Snool**, to dispirit by constant chiding ; or to depress the energies of life by excess of bodily toil. Mr. Halliwell explains a *sneul* and a *snool*, to mean a poor pitiful fellow.

It's ass and fuil and silly *smuil*,

It's naething but a noodle.

*Miss Blamire: The Cumberland Scold*.

**Snoke**, to pry meanly into holes and corners, to poke one's nose where it has no business.

**Snoove**, to pry, to sneak.

**Snow**, } to drop partially congealed rain. The preterite and  
**Snew**, } past participle survive in America, but are considered  
**Snown**, } vulgarisms.

Withouten bake meat never was his house.

Of fish and flesh, and that so plenteous,

It *sneve* in his house of meat and drink.

*Chaucer ; Prologue to the Canterbury Tales*.

**Snow**—*continued.*

First it blew, and then it *snew*, and then it friz horrid.

*Major Downing's Letters.*

Ben Jonson, in his 'English Grammar,' cites the following verbs that make their preterite in *ew*—viz., blow, grow, throw, crow, know, draw, slay, and *snow*. The last is the only one of the number that now forms its preterite in *ed*, though uneducated people both in Great Britain and America sometimes form the preterites of grow, blow, and know in *ed*, as when Topsy, in 'Uncle Tom's Cabin,' says, 'she growed.' 'I knowed it,' instead of 'I knew it,' is also a common vulgarism.

**Snurl**, to ruffle the surface of the waters with a wind; metaphorically applied to the temper of a man or woman.

Northern blasts the ocean *snurl*.—*Allan Ramsay.*

**Snurle**, an influenza; catarrh or cold in the head.

**Snurles**, from *nose-thurles*, the nostrils.

**Sny**, snug.

**Sodden**, past participle of seethe, to boil. 'Gin-sodden,' a phrase applied to a low drunkard, sodden, seethed, and permeated with gin.

**Soggy**, very wet, soft, swampy ground. The word occurs in Ben Jonson, and is in common use in America.

**Solaine**, } a solitary person; one all by himself.  
**Soleyne**, }

He sat neither with Saint Johan,  
Ne with maidens, not with martyrs,  
But by himself as a *soleyne*.—*Piers Ploughman.*

**Somedéal**, a little; in some part.

A poor widow, *somedele* stooped in age.—*Chaucer.*

**Sonce**, prosperity; from the Gaelic *sonas*, good fortune.

**Soncy**, } fortunate; also used in the sense of comely, well-  
**Sonsie**, } favoured, healthful, and agreeable.

Three are aye *sonsy*.—*Allan Ramsay.*

The *unsonsy* fish gets the unlucky bait.—*Scotch Proverbs.*

A *sonsic* and a bonnie lassie.—*Burns.*



**Sool**, anything eaten with bread or potatoes for a relish. Nares derives the word from the French *soule*, satiated, full, or drunk; 'se souler,' to get drunk. The English and Scottish *sool* is not applied to liquids.

**Soom**, to drink a long draught, with a sucking noise of the mouth; as if in great thirst, or with great relish.

**Sooth**, truth.

He looks like *sooth*,  
He says he loves my daughter.

*Shakespeare: Winter's Tale.*

If thy speech be *sooth*,  
I care not if thou dost for me as much.

*Shakespeare: Macbeth.*

**Soothfast**, strong and steady in the truth.

**Sorn**, a word common in Scotland and the North of England, to express the practice of fastening one's self upon another, to feast and lodge, unasked and unwelcome; almost equivalent to the word to *sponge*, in England. In Scotland, 'to go and *sorn* upon a man for a dinner,' would be in England, 'to go and take pot-luck with him,' he not expecting you. No exact synonyme exists, south of the Humber.

In Thompson's 'Etymons of English Words,' *sorn* is said to be a corruption of *sojourn* and *soiorn*, to tarry from day to day, and to have been derived from the ancient practice in unsettled times, of bands of armed men, living at free quarters upon the people when passing through a country.

It is related of a noble Scottish lady of the olden time, who lived in a remote part of the Highlands, and was noted for her profuse hospitality, that she was sometimes overburdened with habitual *sorners*. When any one of them outstayed his welcome, she would take occasion to say to him at the morning meal, with an arch look at the rest of the company, 'Mak' a guid breakfast, Mr. Blank, while ye're about it; ye dinna ken whar ye'll get your dinner.' The hint was usually taken, and the *sorner* departed.

**Sot**, preterite of set. I *sot* him a task; obsolete in England, but current in America.

**Sothery**, soothing ; but defined by Nares to mean sweet.

And as I wene,  
With *sothery* butter their bodies anoynted.

*Four P's, Old Play (Nares).*

**Sough** or **sugh**. In Nares's 'Glossary,' this useful word is defined to mean, 'perhaps a *sound*.' He quotes from Ben Jonson's 'Epigrams:'

The well greased wherry now had got between,  
And hade her farewell *sough* unto her burden.

Mr. Halliwell comes nearer to the mark, and describes a *sough* or *sugh*, as a buzzing, a hollow murmuring, a roaring. Johnson, in his Dictionary, though quite unaware of the derivation of the word, defines it to mean the whistling of the wind ; and quotes from the 'History of the Royal Society,' Vol. IV., p. 225, the phrase, 'A noise like that of a great *soughing* wind.' In the Scottish dialect the word is spelt and pronounced *sugh* (with the guttural pronunciation), and means the sound of the wind upon the seashore or among the trees, or amid the long grass, or the sedges on a river's brink ; in all of which senses, it is used both in the highest order of poetry, and in the most ordinary conversation. It is evidently from the same root as *sigh*, or the Greek *psyche*, the breath, or soul. According to Richardson the word was anciently written *sike*, thus betraying its etymology.

November chill blows loud wi' angry *sough*.

*Burns : Cotter's Saturday Night.*

Like a rash-bush stood in sight,

Wi' waving *sough*.—*Burns : Address to the Deil.*

The wavy swell of the *soughing* reeds.

*Tennyson : The Dying Swan.*

**Sounder**, a herd or company of wild swine.—*Blount's Glossographia*, 1681.

If by any chance there is a *sounder* of them (boars or swine) together ; then if any break sounder, the rest will run.

*Gentle Recreation, (quoted by Nares.)*

**Souse**, pickled pork or other meat ; also brine for pickling.

Thus they went all along unto the miller's house,  
Where they were seething of puddings and *souse*.

*Percy's Reliques, the King and the Miller of Mansfield.*

Souse—*continued.*

Nor is a breast of pork to be,  
Despised by either thee or me;  
The head and feet will make good *souse*.—*Poor Robin*, 1738.

Souter, a shoemaker; from the Latin *sutor*.

Ploughmen and pastors,  
And other common laborers,  
*Souters* and shepherds.—*Piers Ploughman*.

*Souter* Johnny.—*Burns*.

'Mair whistle than woo,'

As the *souter* said when he sheared the soo.

*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

Spade-graft, the depth to which a spade will dig.

Spae, to tell fortunes; to predict.

Spae-wife, a fortune-teller.

Spaed, } that which is gelded or castrated.—*Blount's Glossa-*  
Spade, } *graphia*, 1681. 'To call a spade, a spade, was a  
popular phrase for to be plain spoken,' says Nares. He  
adds, 'why the spade was especially chosen to enter into  
this figurative expression is not so clear.' Perhaps Blount's  
explanation may throw light upon the obscurity. To call a  
*spaed* man, a *spaed*; i.e., to call a eunuch, a eunuch, is a  
possible derivation.

Small eloquence men must expect from me,  
My scholarship will name things as they be;  
I think it good plain English without fraud,  
To call a *spade* a *spade*, a bawd, a bawd.

*Taylor, the Water Poet*, 1630.

Possibly the phrase originates in the Gaelic *spad*, to strike  
a fatal blow; and *spadadh*, murder.

Spalt, brittle; whence spelter.

Sparthe, an axe, a halberd.

Spate, } a flood or freshet from the overflow of a river or lake.  
Spait, } *Spat* or *spate*, from the same root as spatter, to dis-  
perse, or shed abroad a fluid, means, according to Mr.  
Barnes, in his 'English Roots,' a 'heavy down-casting of  
rain.' Flood, the quasi synonyme of *spate*, may, and does  
mean, a torrent of water in its usual channel; whereas, a  
*spate*, is water that has overspread its channel.

The water was great and mickle of *spate*,

*Ballad of Kinmont Willie.*

**Spate—continued.**

Even like a mighty river, that runs down in *spate* to the sea.

*W. E. Aytoun, Blackwood's Magazine.*

The Laird of Balnamon was a truly eccentric character. He joined with his drinking propensities a great zeal for the Episcopal Church. One Sunday, having visitors, he read the services and prayers with great solemnity and earnestness. After dinner, he, with the true Scotch hospitality of the time, set to, to make his guests as drunk as possible. Next day, when they took their departure, one of the visitors asked another what he thought of the laird. 'Wky, really,' he replied, 'sic a *spate* o' praying, and sic a *spate* o' drinking, I never knew in all the course of my life.'—*Dean Ramsay's Reminiscences.*

**Speedful**, prosperous, fortunate. 'I wish you good *speed*;' is still a common expression.

**Sperage**, the herb asparagus, or as it is vulgarly called by the street-criers, 'sparrow-grass, and 'grass.'

This herb is so called by Gerard and all the old botanists, as its English name. It is an indigenous plant.—*Nares.*

**Spert,**  
**Spirt,** } a sudden fit of energy or spirit.  
**Spurt,** }

And some of them led here and there by *spirts*,  
Shifting their lodgings oftener than their shirts.

*Taylor's Works, 1630.*

**Speer,** } to ask, to inquire. This word is now seldom heard  
**Spier,** } out of Scotland, but was formerly universal in Eng-  
land.

She *speer'd* his name; 'I come from far,  
My name is called Dissowar.'

*Romance of Roswal and Lilyan.*

I am *Spes*, quoth he,  
And *spier* after a knighte,  
That took me a mandement,  
Upon the mount of Sinai,  
To rule all reams (realms) with.

*Piers Ploughman.*

Many a one *speers* the way he knows full well.

*Scottish Proverb.*

**Spike,**  
**Spikenard,** } lavender.

The gilliflower, the mint, the hyacinthe, the *spike*.

*Affectionate Shepherd, 1594.*

**Spilth**, that which is spilt or overflown. 'The *spilth* of the river covered the meadow lands.'

Our vaults have wept,  
With drunken *spilth* of wine.

*Shakespeare: Timon of Athens.*

**Spink**, a finch, a small bird; the gold*spink*, the goldfinch.

**Splairge**, } to splash, or splatter in the water. Mr. Halliwell  
**Splurge**, } quotes *splairge*, as a Northumbrian word. In Ame-  
rica the word is written *splurge*; and means to make a dash,  
or splash, or sensation, by great expenditure of energy or  
money; equivalent to the English phrase, to 'cut a dash.'

**Splat**, a row of pins, as they are sold in the paper.

**Splay**, from display, to spread or extend unnaturally; as a  
'splay foot, a splay mouth.' Splay in some parts of England  
means to 'castrate.'

**Splent**, steel armour for the shoulder and arms.

With spur on heel, and *splent* armour on the shoulder.  
*Ballad of Kinmont Willie; Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border.*

**Splint**, to support, whence the word used in surgery, a 'splint,'  
to support a weak or broken limb.

**Splore**, a riotously merry meeting; to make a *splore*, to create  
a sensation.

In Posie-Nancy's held the *splore*,  
Wi' quaffing and laughing,  
They ranted and they sang.

*Burns: The Jolly Beggars.*

We've had some bits of *splores* together.

*Sir Walter Scott.*

**Spoffle**, to make one's self very busy over a matter of very  
little consequence. An Eastern Counties word.—*Halliwell.*

**Spole**, from the French *epaule*; the shoulder.

**Spolt**, a heavy blow; struck from the *spole* or shoulder; to  
strike a blow from the shoulder.

Speedes them to *spolt* with speeres y-new.

*Morte Arthur.*

**Spook**, a common word in America for a ghost, or goblin;  
probably derived from Puck and Pook.

**Spoorn**, a nautical word, signifying to go right before the wind.

When virtue *spoons* before a prosperous gale,  
My hearing wishes help to fill the sail.

*Dryden: Hind and Panther.*

**Spore**, a trace, a mark ; a foot *spore*, a foot mark.

**Spousal-breach**, adultery.

**Sprack**, }  
**Sprag**, } sprightly, quick, alert.

**Spriad**, ancient preterite of spread.

**Spreath**, active, nimble ; from the same root comes sprightly, and the American word 'spry.'

**Sprene**, or **Sprink**, to sprinkle ; whence sprinkle as a diminutive. The word in its original form has long been obsolete ; but besprent, the past participle of *be-sprene*, is common both in ancient and modern poetry.

**Sprentle**, to flutter.

*Sprentled* with her wings tway.

*Gower MS., Soc. Antiq. (Halliwell.)*

**Springald**, } a youth, a young man ; one newly-sprung to  
**Springall**, } maturity.

A lusty *springald*, or younkere.

*Douglas's Virgil.*

Then came two *springalds*, full of tender years.

*Spenser: Faerie Queene.*

Good, observe me,  
I do not rail against the hopeful *springall*.

*Beaumont and Fletcher.*

**Sprith**, rushes, coarse grass.

**Sprithy**, rushy, grassy.

His dead master was lying in a little *sprithy* hollow, not above a musket shot from the peat stack.

*Blackwood's Magazine*, March, 1823.

**Sprote**, a fragment.

**Sprote-wood**, small twigs and sticks, and windfalls of trees gathered for fire-wood.

**Sprunt**, neat, well-grown, well-formed, and lively.

**Spruntly**, gaily, becomingly.

How do I look to-day?

Am I not dressed *spruntley*?

*Ben Jonson.*

**Spry**, nimble, active, sprightly. A Somersetshire and Southern English word, very common in America.

You're not so small as I,

And not half so *spry*.—*R. W. Emerson.*

As *spry* as a cricket.—*Judd's Margaret.*

**Spuddle**, to go about a trifling business as if it were a matter of grave importance. To assume airs of importance without occasion.

**Spunk**, a spark of life, or fire.

**Spunky**, mettlesome, brisk, brave, fiery of spirit.

In that snug room, where any man of *spunk*,

Would find it a hard matter to get drunk.

*Peter Pindar.*

The *spunk* of life is in him yet.

*Jamieson.*

Erskine, a *spunky* Norland billie.

*Burns: Cry and Prayer.*

**Spunkie**, the ignis fatuus, Will o' the Wisp, or Jack o' the Lantern.

And oft your moss-traversing *spunkies*

Decoy the wight that late and drunk is.

*Burns: Address to the Deil.*

**Spurge**, froth; to emit froth.

The bodys something noisome,

Good troth, it *spurgeth* monstrously.

*Nares, 1651.*

**Spurtle**, a round stick or piece of wood; used in the Northern counties and in Scotland, to stir the porridge in the pot when boiling. To have the scraping of the *spurtle*, is the reward of a good child in the districts where oatmeal porridge is still the food of the young.

**Spur-way**, right of way for a man on horseback, as distinguished from *foot-way* or *carriage-way*.

**Squab**, an unfledged bird. In America the word signifies more particularly a young pigeon.

**Squash**, an unripe pod, before the peas are formed.

Not yet old enough for a man, nor young enough for a boy ; as a *squash* is before 'tis a peascod.

*Shakespeare: Twelfth Night.*

In America the word is applied to a coarse kind of pumpkin.

**Squawk**. This word bears the same relation to squeak, as squeal does to squall ; to squeak, but with a deeper note.

'Good gracious !' said Mrs. Bedott, 'if you'd heard Miss C. sing, you'd a gin up. The way she *squawked* it out was a caution to old gates on a windy day.'—*Bartlett's Dictionary of Americanisms*.

**Squelch**. This word is so common in America, and so little used in England, as to be supposed an Americanism. It occurs in English literature in the sense of to 'crush by a fall,' or by a severe blow.

He was the cream of Brecknock,  
And flower of all the Welsh,  
But St. George he did the dragon fell,  
And gave him a plaguy *squelch*.

*St. George and the Dragon.*

*Quelch* is another form of the same word, but less commonly used.

**Squintard**, a person who squints.

**Squirm**, to wriggle like a worm ; a common word in the South of England, and in general use in the United States.

Some gentleman is suddenly seized with the retrenchment gripes, and *squirms* around like a long red worm on a pin-hook.

*Speech in the Missouri Legislature, June, 1859.*

**Staddle**, the stain left on metal after the rust is removed.

**Stadle**, young trees left growing in an underwood : *v.*, to cut a wood in such a way as to leave *stadles*.

**Stance**, situation, standing-place or foundation.

No ! sooner may the Saxon lance,  
Unfix Benledi from his *stance* !

*Scott: Lady of the Lake.*



**Stance**—*continued*.

He never advanced  
 From the place he was *stanced*  
 Till was no more to do there at a', man.  
*The Battle of Sheriff-Muir.*

We would recommend any Yankee believer in England's decay to take his *stance* in Fleet Street, or any of our great thoroughfares, and ask himself whether it would be wise to meddle with any member of that busy and strenuous crowd.—*Blackwood's Magazine*, June, 1869.

**Stanch**, to suppress, put an end to, abolish.

An act of the first year of the reign of King James I. was passed for the *stanching* of all masterful and idle beggars.—*Chambers*.

This word, obsolete in the above sense, survives in 'stanch the blood of a wound,' i.e., to stop the bleeding.

**Stang**, a large wooden bar or post, called in America a rail. To ride the *stang* in England, and to ride the *rail* in America, is a rural punishment often inflicted by Lynch law upon some offender against the proprieties whom other law cannot reach.

**Stall,**  
**Staule,** } to decoy.  
**Stale,** }

A *stall* pigeon in the English sense of a decoy duck, is a common phrase in America.

*Stales* to catch kites.

*Beaumont and Fletcher.*

The trumpery in my house, go fetch it hither,  
 For *stall* to catch the thieves.

*Shakespeare: The Tempest.*

**Stalwart,**  
**Stalworth,** } strong, lusty.

**Stark**, strong, lusty.

*Stark* beer, boy, stout and strong beer.

*Beaumont and Fletcher.*

How found you him? *stark* as you see.

*Shakespeare: The Tempest.*

**Stark**—*continued*.

Going a fishing on a *stark* calm morning.  
*Robinson Crusoe.*

This word has seemingly lost its original meaning, and instead of strong, is employed to express the adverb *strongly*, utterly, or *very*.

The phrases *stark* naked, utterly naked, and *stark* dead, stiff, or utterly dead, still survive ; but *stark* is scarcely ever used in its original sense at the present day, except in America, where such expressions as *stark* treason and *stark* murder are occasionally heard.

**Stathe,** } a wharf, or pier.  
**Staithe,** }

**Stede**, a place ; whence *stead*, in such words as farm-*stead*, road-*stead*, bed-*stead*, home-*stead*, instead of, i.e., in place of, *stead-fast*, fast to the place ; *steady* ; and in the termination of names of places, as Hampstead.

His gorgeous rider from his lofty *stede*  
 Would have cast down, and trode in dirty mire.  
*Spenser.*

In the days of chivalry, a knight's *place* was on horseback ; whence a knight and his *stede*, i.e., place.

He was then so courteous and free,  
 That doun off his *stede* he light.  
*Morte Arthur.*

Lady he said —————  
 For me, (ne give thee nothing ill),  
 In another *stede* my heart is set.  
*Morte Arthur.*

**Steeve**, strong, firm, stiff, well-made, and active.

Thou ance was i' the foremost rank,  
 A filly, buirdly, *steeve*, and swank.  
*Burns : The Auld Farmer to his Auld Mare Maggie.*

**Steik**, to shut up ; ' *steek* the door,' i.e., shut the door.

**Stoke**, shut up ; preterite of *steek* or *steik*, erroneously used in the infinitive and in the present tense.

As I have spoke,  
Then hadst thou the gates *stoke*  
From such folly.

*Chaucer.*

Taverns should be *steiked* at nine hours.  
*Skene's Acts.*

When one door *steiks*, another opens.  
*Allan Ramsay.*

*Steik* the awmrie, shut the kist,  
Or else your gear will soon be mist.  
*Sir Walter Scott.*

**Stoker**, a shutter-up of the doors of a furnace ; a modern word of ancient derivation, applied in railway language to the man who feeds the furnace with coal, and *steiks* or shuts up the door.

**Stell**, to place ; from the German *stellen*, whence stall, a place for horses ; or a stall in a cathedral, or in a theatre ; i.e., a place for a clergyman, or a spectator.

**Stent**, *n.*, an allotted portion of work. A daily task, a portion.

*Stente* or certeine of value, ordered and other lythe taxation.  
*Harleian MS., quoted by Halliwell.*

This word, like many others, lost to English literature, survives in America.

Little boys in the country, working against time with *stents* to do, long for the passing by of some tall brother, who in a few minutes shall achieve what the smaller boys took hours to do.

*Discourse on the Death of Daniel Webster, by Theodore Parker, 1853.*

**Stent**, } to desist, to cease, to limit, to confine within a certain  
**Stint**, } bound.—This verb is a curious instance of the liber-  
**Stunt**, } ties which Time takes with the old words of a lan-  
guage. The three inflections have each been made to do duty for an infinitive, so that one verb has been virtually converted into three. Chaucer has *stent*, the correct and original form :

And of this cry we would they never *stent*.  
*The Knight's Tale.*

**Stent**—*continued.*

*Stint*, the ancient preterite, is the modern infinitive, and forms its preterite and past participle regularly in *ed*. *Stunt*, to stint, or stop, or cease in growth, goes through the same inflections. The late Daniel O'Connell called the Duke of Wellington a *stunted* corporal.

**Sterve**, to die; the German *sterben*, corrupted into *starve*; and restricted in the latter form, to die of hunger, though in the Northern counties the people still speak of 'starving with cold.' The modern word, *starvation*, half corrupt English, and half Latin, ought to be expelled from the language if a proper synonyme could be found or made for it, from an English root. 'Clem,' or 'clam,' *q.v.*, is the original word for dying of hunger, but the attempt to reintroduce it into literature would probably be all but hopeless.

Choose out some noble dame, her honour thou and serve,  
Who will give ear to thy complaint, and pity ere thou *sterve*.  
*Romeus and Juliette, quoted by Nares.*

To her came message of this wunderment,  
Wherein her guiltless friends should hopeless *sterve*.  
*Fairfax: Tasso.*

He stood until such time he *sterved*,  
And so God send all murderers may be served.  
*Percy's Reliques, Titus Andronicus.*

**Steven**, a voice. The rhymes to 'heaven' in the English language are few, and this word would be useful.

With dreary heart and sorrowful *steven*.  
*Morte Arthur.*

She shall be queen of my land,  
And all bow unto her hand,  
And none withstand her *steven*.  
*Sir Isumbras.*

So blithe he was to hear that *steven*,  
That his heart became all light.  
*Floriee and Blancheflour.*

Then thanked her God in heaven,  
And Mary with mild *steven*,  
That she had so y-wrought.  
*Sir Otuel.*

**Steven**—*continued.*

Say to him with mild *stewyn*,  
He will not say you nay.

*MS. Harl., quoted by Halliwell.*

**Stichel.** 'This word,' says Nares, 'is a term of reproach, implying want of manhood.' The word Twitchel, or twychild, twice a child, a very old man, *q.v.*, might have helped him to the derivation. He quotes :

Barren *stichel*! That shall not serve thy turn ;

but misses the root of the word, 'stay-child,' one who can not procreate.

**Stickle**, to arbitrate ; whence *stickler*, an arbitrator ; and figuratively, one who makes a point of trifling matters, and will take nothing for granted.

**Stightle**, to confirm, to strengthen.

To *stightle* the people,  
Preaching and praying.

*Piers Ploughman.*

**Stith,** } robust, strong, firmly-fixed, and not to be easily  
**Stythe,** } shaken.

The stremys are so stiffe and *stythe*,  
That many men there lose their lyfe.

*MS. Lincoln (Halliwell).*

On stedes that were *stith* and strong,  
They ridden together.

*Amis and Amiloun.*

A turnament,  
With knightes *stith* on stede.

*Sir Tristram.*

**Stithe,** }  
**Stithy,** } an anvil.

A head where Wisdom mysteries did frame,  
Whose hammers beat still in that lively brain,  
As on a *stithe*, whereon some work of fame,  
Was daily wrought to turn to Briton's gain.

*The Earl of Surrey on the Death of Sir Thomas Wyatt.*

By the forge that *stithy'd* Mars' helm,  
I'll kill thee everywhere ; yea, o'er and o'er.

*Chaucer ; Troilus and Cressida.*

**Stithe**—*continued.*

And my imaginations are as foul,  
As Vulcan's *stithy*.

*Shakespeare: Hamlet.*

A pig's sty was formerly called a *stythe* in the North, as may be seen in the ballad of 'Fause Foodrage,' in the 'Border Minstrely.'

She wandered up, she wandered down,  
She wandered out and in,  
And at last into the swine's *stythē*,  
The queen brought forth a son.

**Stodge**, to stuff too full.

**Stodge-full**, so full as to be unable to contain any more ; like the ground after heavy and continuous rains ; or like a glutton at a feast.

**Stoly**, dirty, confused, disordered.

A *stoly* house.—*Grose's Provincial Glossary.*

**Stot**, a young bullock.

Grace gave Piers,  
Of his goodness, four *stotts*.

*Piers Ploughman.*

A *stot* unto your plough.

*Sir Isumbras.*

But if the lover's raptured hour,  
Shall ever be your lot,  
Forbid it every heavenly power,  
You e'er should be a *stot*.

*Burns.*

**Stoup,** } a pitcher.  
**Stoop,** }

Set me the *stoop* of wine upon the table.

*Shakespeare: Hamlet.*

And surely ye'll be your pint-*stoup*,  
And surely I'll be mine.

*Burns: Auld Lang Syne.*

**Stound**, a hurt, a severe pain.

And aye the *stound* and deadly wound,  
Came from her een sae bonnie blue.

*Burns.*

**Stound**—*continued.*

It does boom off, nevertheless sending a *stound* through all hearts.  
*Carlyle's French Revolution.*

**Stound**, an hour ; a little while ; from the German *stunde*.

What booth wilt thou have? our king reply'd ;  
 Now tell me in this *stound*.  
*Percy's Reliques: The King and the Tanner of Tamworth.*

Listen to me a little *stound*.  
*Percy's Reliques: The Carle of Carlisle.*

**Stour**, dust in motion, dust stirred by the wind, or by the trample of feet ; and from whence, metaphorically, strife, contention. The word is common all over Britain, from Devonshire, where it is pronounced *sture*, to Caithness, where, as in Scotland generally, it is *stoure*.

The lord that great was of honour  
 Himself, Sir Lancelot do take  
 Above the gates upon the tower ;  
 Comely to the king he spake :  
 My Lord ! God save your honour,  
 Me is woe now, for your sake,  
 Against thy kin to stand in *stour* ;  
 But needs must I this battle take.  
*Morte Arthur.*

He is stalwarth in *stoures*,  
 By Saint Martin of Towers.  
*MS. Lincoln (Halliwell).*

The *stoure* was strong, enduring, long,  
 The Romans had there the field,  
 The Sarrazins they slew among,  
 Ten thousand and more with speare and shielde.  
*Ferumbras.*

Alas ! Fortune she that whilom was,  
 Dreadful to kingis and to emperours ;  
 \* \* \* \* \*  
 And she that helméd was in stark *stoures*,  
 And won by force towns, strong, and towers.  
*Chaucer: The Monke's Tale.*

Wee, modest, crimson-tipped flow'r,  
 Thou'st met me in an evil hour,  
 For I maun crush among the *stoure*,  
 Thy slender stem,  
 To spare thee now is past my pow'r,  
 Thou bonnie gem.  
*Burns.*

**Stow**, a place ; whence *Stowe*, the seat of the Duke of Buckingham, *the* place. Whence, also, *Walthamstow*, Bishop-*stowe*, and several other names of towns, villages, and places.

**Stow-away**, a person who *stows*, or places himself in hiding on board of an emigrant ship, to escape the roll-call of the passengers ; and who, by showing himself when the vessel is far out at sea, forces the captain to take him to his destination for humanity's sake. The captain on such occasions endeavours to get some value out of a stow-away by compelling him to do the menial offices of the ship.

**Strae-death**, a natural death ; death in the *straw*, of which beds were usually made—as distinguished from death in the battle-field or on the gallows, the too frequent alternatives with the men of the middle ages :—

Where I killed ane a fair *strae death*,  
By loss of blood or want of breath,  
This night I'm free to tak my aith  
That Hornbook's skill  
Has clad a score i' their last claiith  
By drap and pill.

*Burns : Death and Dr. Hornbook.*

**Straight-fingered** ; one whose fingers will not crook to seize or hold dishonest gains ; thoroughly honest.

**Straught**, preterite of to stretch.

**Strake**, to wander about.

With stern staves and strong,  
They over land *straketh*.

*Piers Ploughman.*

**Strene**, to generate.

**Strend**, a generation.

For he said in his hearte nought sae I wende,  
Withouten evil fra *strende* to *strende*.

*Cotton MSS. (Halliwell).*

**Strene**, } lineage. Chaucer uses *strene* in the sense of *strend*,  
**Strain**, } to signify a race or generation. In Mr. Herbert Coleridge's 'Dictionary of the First or Oldest Words in the English Language,' '*stren*' is defined as progeny ; and *streon*, the knot in the yolk of an egg, the point where generation commences.



**Strene**—*continued.*

Of a noble *strain* was Jenkin.  
*Old Welsh Song.*

Benedick is of a noble *strain*,  
 Of approved valour, and confirmed honesty.  
*Shakespeare: Much Ado about Nothing.*

He is bred out of that bloody *strain*,  
 That haunted us in our familiar paths.  
*Shakespeare: King Henry V.*

**Strome**, to walk backwards and forwards with long strides, as some do in anger and perplexity.

**Stromp**, } to tread heavily, or pace about ; whence, probably,  
**Strump**, } *strumpet*, a street walker.

I heard 'un *strompin'* down stairn ; i.e., I heard him walking heavily down stairs.—*Sternberg's Northamptonshire Glossary.*

In Ford's play of 'The Fancies Chaste and Noble,' when the ladies are entreated to bear with Secco, who is 'a foul-mouth'd man,' Secco calls one of them by the most opprobrious epithet that can be applied to a woman, and adds : 'a fox-bitch, a *treddle*.' The last word thus appears to have the same meaning as *strumpet*, and suggests treading, walking, or *strumping* the streets.

**Stub**, a thick, short stump of a tree left in the ground, when the trunk is cut down. *Stubble*, the diminutive of this word, means the small stalks of corn left by the reapers.

All about old stocks and *stubs* of trees.  
*Spenser.*

Upon cutting down of an old timber tree, the *stub* hath sometimes put out a tree of another kind.—*Bacon.*

We  
 Live on tough roots and *stubs* ; to thirst inured ;  
 Now to much misery and hardship born.  
*Milton.*

Striking his foot against some *stubbe* or stone.  
*Topsell's Four-footed Beasts, 1611 (Halliwell).*

**Stub**—*continued.*

The late President Lincoln was met by a friend in Pennsylvania Avenue, at Washington, who, seeing that he limped a little, asked what was the matter. 'Oh, not much,' replied the President, 'I have only *stubbed* my toe,' i.e., 'knocked my toe against a *stub*.'

**Stubby**, short and thick, like the stump of a tree.

**Sturt**, } to trouble, annoy ;  
           } strife, annoyance ; from the same root as *stoure*, battle or contention.

The merriest man that lives in life,  
 He sails upon the sea,  
 For he knows neither *sturt* nor strife,  
 But blythe and glad is he.

*Allan Ramsay: The Evergreen.*

*Sturt* pays no debt.

*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

I've lived a life of *sturt* and strife,  
 I die by treachery.

*Burns: Macpherson's Farewell.*

And aye the less they hae to *sturt* them,  
 In like proportion less will hurt them.

*Burns: The Two Dogs.*

**Suckerel**, an unweaned infant.

**Suckets**, confectionery, sweetmeats, called in England 'sweet-stuff,' in America, 'candies,' and in Scotland, 'sweeties.'

And in some six days' journey does consume,  
 Ten pounds in *suckets*.

*Drayton.*

Bring hither *suckets*, candies, delicates.

*Antona and Mellida, quoted by Nares.*

Well filled with *suckets* and sweetmeats.

*Taylor, the Water Poet.*

In the fifth course were confects and *suckets*.

*History of Francion, 1655, quoted by Nares.*

**Sud**, the drift sand or slush left in the meadows by an overflow of rivers. Meadows are said to be *sudded* after a flood, or '*spate*.'

**Sumph**, a fool, a blockhead ; a common Scottish and Northern word. Mr. Halliwell says that in Suffolk a very heavy weight is called a *sump* ; and that hence, a heavy, stupid fellow is so designated. In Scotland, a heavy fall of rain is called a '*sump*,' as in the following :

Of thunder July speaks, and *sumps* of rain,  
And August winds uproot the growing grain.

*Blackwood's Magazine*, January, 1821.

Better thole a grumph, than a *sumph* ; (i.e., better endure a surly, or grumpy man, than a fool).

*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs*.

The *sumpish* mob of penetration *schawl* ; (i.e., the foolish mob of shallow penetration.)—*Allan Ramsay*.

**Sundriness**, diversity.

**Sunstead**, the solstice ; the place, or *stede*, of the sun.

**Swad**, a lout, a raw recruit, a lubber ; a person who has to be brought into order and discipline, and to be *swaddled*, strapped, and laced ; whence *swaddie*, a vulgar name for a soldier.

No better could the silly *swad* than this.

*Robert Greene: Perimedes the Blacksmith*, 1590.

Let country swains and silly *swads* be still.

*Idem*.

**Swaff**, to come one over the other, like waves upon the shore.

Drenched with their *swaffing* waves.

*Taylor's Works*, 1630.

**Swale**, to distend and wave in the wind, as a plume, a flag, or a sail ; a more appropriate word for the purpose than its quasi synonyme, *swell*, which means to increase in real, whereas, to *swale* is to increase only in apparent, bulk.

**Swale**, a shady valley.

**Swank**, vigorous, hale, and hearty.

Steeve and *swank*.

*Burns: The Auld Farmer's Salutation to his auld mare Maggie*.

**Swarf**, the grit worn away from the stone in grinding ; German *auswerf*, or out-throw.

**Swarth**, } the corn cut by one stroke of the scythe ; the reach  
**Swath**, } of the scythe.

The Greeks, ripe for his edge,  
 Fall down before him like the mower's *swath*.  
*Shakespeare.*

The devil a puritan that he is, or anything constantly but a time pleaser ; an affectioned (affected) ass, that cons state without book ; and utters it by great *swaths*.—*Shakespeare : Twelfth Night.*

Here stretched in lengths, the levelled *swarths* are found.  
*Pope.*

So Time the mower, cuts his fatal *swath*,  
 And mortals see him not across their path.  
*W. R. Alger : The Poetry of the East.*

**Swash**, to swell, to protrude, to swagger, to bully, to affect bravery ; also used as a substantive and an equivalent to the modern word, ' a swell.'

Or score out husbands in the charcoal ashes,  
 With county knight, not roaring city *swashes*.  
*Translation of Ovid's Art of Love, 1677.*

A *swashing* blow.  
*Ben Jonson.*

This word was formerly applied in the sense of swell, or swelling, to a water-fall, ' a great *swash* of water.' To *swash* water, is a phrase still employed in the sense of ' *splash*,' but with the latent meaning of greater force.

**Swasher**, a rowdy, a rough, a bully, a braggart.

I have observed these three *swashers*.  
*Shakespeare : Henry V.*

**Swash-buckler**, a bully, a fellow whose sword makes a noise against his buckler.

**Swash-bucket**, a clumsy servant girl, who *swashes* or spills the milk or the water over the pail.

**Swarble**, to climb a straight tree, on which there are no branches to help the ascent. The word ' swarm ' has in some parts of England the same meaning.

**Sware**, to pass backwards and forwards, to wave to and fro ;  
whence to *swerve*.

**Swatch**, a specimen, a sample.

That's just a *swatch* o' Hornbook's way.

*Burns: Death and Dr. Hornbook.*

**Swatter**, to scatter abroad extravagantly ; to waste.

He *swattered* away all his money.—*Grose*.

**Swattle**, to drink voraciously, and with a noise, as a duck does,  
applied metaphorically to a drunkard.

**Sweat**, } to perspire. This ancient word survives in colloquial,  
**Swat**, } but has been of late years banished from literary,  
English. The curse pronounced upon Adam, 'In the *sweat*  
of thy face shalt thou eat [or earn] thy bread,' would have  
lost much of its energy in English ears, if the ancient trans-  
lators had been as mealy-mouthed as the men of the present  
day, and rendered 'sweat' by *perspiration*.

His fair steed

So *swat* that men might him ring.

*Chaucer: The Rhyme of Sir Topaz.*

His hackenye which that was al pomelee gris,

So *swatte* that it wonder was to see.

*The Chanones Yemanne's Tale.*

Some, lucky, find a flow'ry spot,

For which they never toiled nor *swat*.

*Burns: Epistle to James Smith.*

**Swell**, }  
**Swale** or } The preterite in *swale* is almost obsolete ; that in  
**Swoll**, } *swoll* has been newly revived, but scarcely holds its  
**Swollen**, } own against *swelled* :

An' thought it *swale* so sore about hir harte.

*Chaucer: The Wife of Bath's Tale.*

**Sweer**, } hard, heavy, difficult to move, loth to move, unwill-  
**Swere**, } ing ; from the Saxon and German *schwer*.

Thou art as young a man as I,

And seem to be as *sweer*.—*Ballad of Robin Hood*.

**Sweer**—*continued.*

Work for nought makes folk dead *swear*.

*Sweer* in the bed, and *swear* up in the morning's no a good house-wife.

An olite (over diligent) mother makes a *swear* daughter.

Pride and *swearness* take muckle uphadding (upholding).  
*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

**Sweeting**, a sweet-heart, a lover.

Ah, my sweet *sweeting*,  
My little pretty *sweeting*,  
My *sweeting* will I love wherever I go.  
She is so proper and pure,  
Full steadfast, stable, and demure,  
There is none such, you may be sure,  
As my sweet *sweeting*.—*M.S. Temp. Henry VIII.*

All's well, *sweeting*,  
Come away to bed.—*Shakespeare: Othello.*

Oh, mistress mine,  
Trip no further, pretty *sweeting*,  
Journeys end in lovers' meeting,  
Every wise man's son doth know.—*Shakespeare.*

One I could hear appointing with his *sweeting*,  
A place convenient for their secret meeting.  
*Drayton: The Owl.*

Let not any maiden here,  
Dare to turn away her ear,  
Unto the whisper of her love,  
But give bracelet, ring, or glove.  
As a token to her *sweeting*,  
Of an after secret meeting.

*Baumont and Fletcher: Cupid's Revenge.*

**Swag**, to sway to and fro by its own weight; whence the modern slang word, *swag*, as applied to plunder, when it is plenteous and heavy.

**Swelt**, to perish.

Death came driving after,  
And all to duste perished;  
Kynge and knyghtes,  
Kaysers and popes,

**Swelt**—*continued.*

Lered and lewed,  
 He loot no man stand.  
 Many a lovely ladye,  
 And leman of knyghtes,  
 Swound and *swelled*,  
 For sorrow of his dintes.—*Piers Ploughman.*

**Sweltersome**, very hot, close, sultry, and damp, applied to the weather.

**Swelter**, to suffer from the heat.

**Swelth**, the swollen flood of mud, slush, and foul water.

Rude Acheron, a loathsome lake to tell,  
 That boils and bubs with *swelth* as black as hell.

*Sackville: Mirror for Magistrates.*

A deadly gulf where nought but rubbish grows,  
 With foul blacke *suelthe* in thickened lump that lies.—*Idem.*

**Swent**, smooth, regular, even, quiet, placid.

Of a *swent* nature, amiable.—*Nares.*

**Sweven**, to dream; a dream or vision.

At night when Arthur was brought in bed,  
 He should have battle upon the morrow,  
 In strong *swevens* he was bestead,  
 That many a man that day should have sorrow.

*Morte Arthur.*

Now, by my fay, said Jolly Robin,  
 A *sweven* I had this night.

*Robin Hood and Grey of Gisborne.*

My heart with grief will brast,  
 I had thought *swevens* had never been true,  
 I have proved them true at last.—*Percy's Reliques.*

**Swike**, to deceive, betray, play false.

**Swikedom**, treachery.

**Swikeful**, deceitful, treacherous.

**Swile**, to wash.

**Swill**, to drink gluttonously.

**Swill-bowl**, a drunkard.

**Swill**, a wash, or that which is washed.

**Swill-pail**, a pail in which the washings and refuse of the pantry and kitchen are preserved. In the United States, almost every house in town or country has the swill-pail, into which the Irish servants very commonly throw as much food daily as would feed an English labourer's family. 'The *swill*-woman' comes round regularly to purchase or remove the plunder.

**Swime**, from swim ; a swimming or dizziness in the head ; a swoon.

Intill his logge he hyed that tyme,  
And to the earth he fell in *swyme*.

*MS. Lincoln, (Halliwell.)*

**Swink**, to labour over-hard.

Upon a book in cloister alway to pore,  
Or *swinken* with his hand.

\* \* \* \* \*

A true *swinker* and a good was he,  
Living in peace and charitie.

*Chaucer : Prologue to the Canterbury Tales.*

For all the night he shope him for to *swinke*,  
In carrying of the gold out of that place.

*Chaucer : The Pardner's Tale.*

In setting and sowing,  
*Swinken* full harde.—*Piers Ploughman.*

But now I *swinke* and sweate in vain,  
My labor hath no end,  
And moping in my study still,  
My youthful years I spend.

*Marriage of Wit and Wisdom, 1579.*

Riches, renown, and principality,  
Honor, estate, and all this world's good,  
For which men *swink* and sweat incessantly.

*Spenser : Faerie Queene.*

We'll labor and *swinke*,  
We'll kiss and we'll drink,  
And tithes shall come thicker and thicker.

*Beaumont and Fletcher : The Spanish Curate.*

Is there no patron to protect the Muse,  
And fence for her Parnassus' barren soil ?  
To every labor its reward accrues,  
As they are sure of bread who *swink* and toil.

*Thomson : Castle of Indolence.*



**Swink**—*continued*.

The laboured ox,  
In his loose traces from the furrow came,  
And the *swink'd* hedger at his supper sat.—*Milton : Comus*.

**Swirl**, an eddy in a stream ; the rapid and noisy revolution of a wheel ; and in the east of England, according to Halliwell, any whirling, wavy motion. In the North, *swerl* signifies to twist or twirl about.

Out shot his hand, alas ! alas !  
Fast in the *swirl* he screeched.

*The Mermaid, Finlay's Collection of Scottish Songs, 1808.*

**Swirl**, to turn rapidly, to eddy, to curl.

His tail  
Hung o'er his hurdies wi' a *swirl*.  
*Burns : The Two Dogs.*

The mill-wheel span and *swirl'd*,  
And the mill-stream danced in the morning light,  
And all its eddies curl'd.

*The Lump of Gold.*

**Swither**, *n.*, uncertainty, perplexity ; to be in a *swither*, to be uncertain whither to go.

Considering the *swiddering*  
Ye forced me first into.

*Montgomery : The Cherry and the Sloe.*

The errant knight  
Bestrides his steed,  
And stands some time in jumbled *swither*,  
To ride in this road or that ither.—*Allan Ramsay.*

I there wi' something did forgather,  
That put me in an erie *swither*.

*Burns : Death and Dr. Hornbook.*

**Swith,**  
**Swithe,** } quickly, rapidly, very.  
**Swythe,** }

When she herde the chylde cry her beforne,  
It comforted her full *swythe*.

*MS. Cantab. (Halliwell).*

This messenger,  
Unto the king's mother rideth *swithe*.

*Chaucer : The Man of Lawe's Tale.*

**Swith**—*continued.*

And he that hath the cut, with herte blithe,  
 Shall remove to the town, and that full *swithe*,  
*Chaucer : The Pardnere's Tale.*

All so *swythe*,  
 As grasse falleth fro' the scythe.  
*Romance of Richard Cœur de Lion.*

*Swith* away ;  
 Or learn, like us, to be thought more gay.  
*Allan Ramsay.*

I am wounded *swithe* sore.  
*Sir Bevis of Hampton.*

**Swoll**, preterite of swell ; a word for a long time disused in favour of swelled, but gradually re-assuming its lost place.

**Syle**, to overflow, to boil over ; to pour down in large quantities.

He *syled* a gallon of ale down his throat.  
*Grose's Provincial Glossary.*

**Taigle**, to banter :—

Two irreverent young fellows determined to *taigle* the minister. Coming up to him in the High Street of Dumfries, they accosted him with much solemnity. 'Maister Dunlop, hae ye heard the news?' 'What news?' 'Oh, the deil's dead!' 'Is he?' replied Mr. Dunlop. 'Then I maun pray for you twa faitherless bairns.'—*Dean Ramsay's Reminiscences.*

**Tang**, a sharp sound; from *tang*, the preterite of *ting*, to sound.

A tongue with a *tang*.—*Nares.*

Let thy tongue *tang* arguments of state.—*Shakespeare.*

**Tanglesome**, quarrelsome, querulous, or unreasonable in argument.

**Tanker**, a cross humour.

**Tankerous**, } ill-natured, peevish, unreasonably quarrel-  
**Tankersome**, } some.

These words, in common use in the Eastern counties of England, are probably the origin of the American expression, *cantankerous*: a compound of the Gaelic *cean*, or *can*, the head, and *tankerous*, one with a quarrelsome head.

**Tantle**, to walk feebly, like an invalid or old person.

**Tantrell**, an idle unsettled person, who will not fix to any employment.—*Grose.*

**Targe**, a shield.

When I was thus armed, I put the *targe* to my side.

*Romance of the Monk, Sion College, MS.*

By his side,

There hang his *targe*, with gashes deepe and wide.

*Sackville: Mirror for Magistrates.*

**Tarn**, a lake high up in the mountains.

**Tarriance**, the act of tarrying ; a word formed on the same principle as dalliance from dally.

While lazy time his turn by *tarriance* serves,  
Love still grows sickly and hope daily sterves.  
*Drayton, 1637.*

After somewhat more than a fortnight's *tarriance*.  
*Southey.*

**Tarrow**, to be over-dainty for want of appetite.

A *tarrowing* hen was never fat,  
A *tarrowing* bairn has had owre muckle.  
*Allan Ramsay.*

I have seen their coggies fu',  
That yet have *tarrowed* at it.—*Burns.*

**Tarrysome**, lingering, tarrying long.

Of her long sorrow and *tarrysome* dede.  
*Douglas's Æneid.*

**Tartle**, to hesitate, to view a person or thing dubiously, as if not recognising him or it with certainty.

A toom (empty) purse makes a *tartling* merchant.  
*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

**Tasse**, a cup. (*French.*)

**Tassie**, a little cup.

Go fetch to me a pint of wine,  
And fill it in a silver *tassie* ;  
And I will drink before I go,  
A service to my bonnie lassie.—*Burns.*

**Tath**, the luxuriant grass which rises in tufts where the dung of cattle has been deposited.—*Jamieson.*

**Tathy-grass**, rough grass.—*Halliwell.*

**Taut**, neat, clean, tight, tidy ; the word survives in English nautical phraseology.

Sae *taut*, sae taper, tight, and clean.  
*Burns : The Vision.*

**Tauted**, } made taut, or tight ; or matted together like hair or  
**Tautie**, } wool.

She was nae get o' moorland tips,  
Wi' *tauted* ket and hairy hips.  
*Burns : Poor Mailie's Elegy.*

**Taw,** } To beat and dress leather with alum to harden it.  
**Tawe,** }

I'll *taw* the hide of thick skinned Hugenes.

*Marton's What You Will.*

In Scotland and the Northern counties of England, the *taws* signifies a piece of leather cut into strips at the end, and hardened by fire, with which children at school are punished for ignorance, inattention, or bad behaviour. Formerly, if not now, every schoolmaster's desk was provided with the implement.

**Tead,** a light, a lamp.

Phœbus doth his beams display,  
 And the fair bride forth to lead,  
 Makes his torch their nuptial *tead*.—*Spenser.*

**Teat,** } a small quantity; whence to teat or 'ted' the hay,  
**Ted,** } to spread it out in small quantities to dry; to sprinkle.

I wish our folks meet na some dool,  
 Meg *tedd* the salt upon thee.—*Picken's Poems.*

The smell of *tedded* grass.—*Milton.*

*Tedding*, turning, cocking, raking,  
 And such business in haymaking;  
 The lads and lasses sweat and fry,  
 As they the grass do toss and dry.—*Poor Robin*, 1746.

**Teathe**, the dung of cattle dropped on the field by the animals when feeding; also to manure with dung.

**Teem**, to pour out.

As a verb neuter, in the sense of pouring out or bringing forth the natural increase, this word finds a place in every English Dictionary. 'The earth *teems* with plenty;' 'the landscape *teems* with beauty;' 'the sea *teems* with fish;' &c. The root of the word is the Gaelic *taom*, to empty, to pour out.

If she must *teem*,  
 Create her child of spleen, that it may live  
 And be a thwart, disnutured, to torment her.

*Shakespeare: King Lear.*

*Teem* out the remainder of the ale into the tankard.—*Swift.*

**Toom**, the original preterite of teem, has become the infinitive in Scottish and Northumbrian phrase. It is also used as an adjective.

They *toom'd* their pocks and pawned their duds.

*Burns: The Jolly Beggars.*

Better a *toom* house than a bad tenant.

*Scotch and Northumbrian Proverb.*

**Teld**, to build, to erect; a building.—(*Wright's Provincial Glossary.*)

**TeIt**, erected, set up, built.

**Tent**, to heed; to tend, to take care of; caution; care; heed.

Our Matty helps my mother, and sews, and *tents* our Joe.

*Waugh's Lancashire Songs.*

But warily *tent* when ye come to court me.—*Burns.*

When the tod (fox) preaches, take *tent* of the lambs.

*Northern Proverb.*

Think ye, are we less blest than they,

Who scarcely *tent* us in their way,

As hardly worth their while?

*Burns: Epistle to Davie, a brother Poet.*

I'll *tent* thee, quoth Wood,

If I cannot rule my daughter,

I'll rule my good.—*Cheshire Proverb (Grose).]*

**Tenty**, careful, cautious, anxious.

**Tentless**, inattentive:

I'll wander on wi' *tentless* heed.

*Burns: Epistle to James Smith.*

**Temse**, a sieve. In French, a sieve is a *tamise*, the same word that designates the river Thames.

**Teth**, temper, disposition.—(*Jamieson.*)

**Tethy**, ill-temperèd; whence by corruption the modern word *tetchy*.

**Thairms**, } entrails; fiddle-strings. Nares and Richardson de-  
**Thermes**, } fine the word to mean the intestines of bullocks  
**Pharmes**, } or other animals, and quote from 'Archaius Toxophilus,' p. 140: 'In olde time they made their bow-strings of bullocks' *thermes*.' Skinner calls it a word in common use in Lincolnshire.

**Thairms**—*continued.*

He who has a wide *thairm*, never has a long arm ; (i.e., the man who has much to do, never has the means of doing it.)

*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

MacLauchlan, *thairm* inspiring sage !

*Burns : The Brigs of Ayr.*

Come, screw the pegs . . .

And o'er the *thairms* be trying.—*Burns : The Ordination.*

**Thane**, an earl or baron.

All hail, Macbeth ! thou shalt be *Thane* of Cawdor.

*Shakespeare : Macbeth.*

*Thane* was a dignity among our ancient Saxon ancestors of two sorts : meset *thanes* (mass *thanes*), were priests qualified to say mass ; worold (worldly or temporal) *thanes*, were a kind of secular or temporal lords.

*Blount's Glossographia, 1681.*

**Thar**, to need.

Have then ynough, thee *thar* not plainen then.

*Chaucer : Wife of Bath's Prologue.*

**Theak**, to thatch.

Bessie Bell and Mary Gray,

They were two bonnie lasses,

They bigget (built) a bower in yon burn brae,

And *theekit* it owre wi' rashes.

*Ballad of Bessie Bell and Mary Gray.*

**Theat**, firm, close, sound. 'A *theat* barrel,' is a barrel that does not leak.

'Out of *theats*,' i.e., out of order, or use, is a phrase, as to any one who is rusted, as to any art or science, for want of practice.—*Jamieson.*

**Thepes**, gooseberries.

**Therle**, gaunt, ill-fed.—(*Wright's Provincial Dictionary.*)

**Thester**, dark.**Thesterness**, darkness.

On a Thursday in *thesterne*,

Then was he taken ;

Through Judas and Jews,

Jesus was his name.—*Piers Ploughman.*

**Thews.** Shakespeare speaks of '*thews* and sinews ;' and the two words, after his example, are generally found combined in modern literature ; and are taken to be synonymous. But *thew* in more ancient writings appears to signify culture, manners ; so that a man of *thews* and sinews, was a man morally and intellectually, as well as physically strong.

His virtues and good *thews*,  
And good example that he shewes.

*M.S. Cotton, quoted by Halliwell.*

To be brought up in gentle *thewes* and martial might.  
*Spenser.*

In virtuous *thewes* and friendly constancie.  
*Mirror for Magistrates.*

**Thibble**, a stick for stirring porridge or gruel, *Scotticè* a spurtle.

To borrow their *thibble* to stir the furmety with.—*Tim Bobbin.*

**Thig**, to beg, to sponge, to sorn, to take advantage of friends and acquaintances for food and lodging as long as decency admits on the one side, or patience on the other.

Better *thig* their meat,  
Than ony good in that wise get.—*Harleian MSS.*

You've come to the goat's house to *thig* wool.  
*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

The father buys, the son biggs (builds),  
The oye sells, and his son *thiggs*.—*Idem.*

**Thigster**, a beggar.

**Thight**, the same as *theat*, q.v. ; closely planted ; as trees in a hedge, or turnips in a field ; firmly fixed like staves in a barrel.

**Thill**, the shaft.

**Thill-horse**, the shaft-horse.

Thou hast got more hair on thy chin, than my *thill-horse* Dobbin has on his tail.—*Shakespeare: Merchant of Venice.*

**Thirdendear**, a third part or *deal* of anything.



**Thirle,** } *n.*, a small hole ; to *drill* a hole, to pierce through.  
**Thurle,** }

Sore yhurt,

And with a spear was *thirled* his breast bone.

*Chaucer: The Knight's Tale.*

If thou were in a mirke house \* \* \* and all the *thirles*, doores  
 and wyndows were stokyne, that no one might enter.

*Lincolnshire MS. (Halliwell.)*

Till I see and feele his fleshe,

The *thurles* both of hands and feete.

*MS. Cursor Mundi, Trin. Col. Cam.*

The narrow passages in coal-pits are in the North called  
*thurlings*; and in Kent the rabbit-hole, is the rabbit *thirle*.  
 In Dorsetshire, the martin and swift are said to have their  
 nests in *thirles*. From 'nose *thirle*,' is derived nostril.

**Thirlable**, penetrable; that through which *thirles* or holes can  
 be made.

**Thisness**. The quality of being in *this* state.

**Thatness**. The quality of being in *that* state.

It is evident that sameness, *thisness* and *thatness*, belongeth not to  
 matter by itself (for a general indifferenc runneth through it all), but  
 only as it is distinguished and individuated by the form, which in our  
 case, whensoever the soul doth, it must be understood always to be the  
 same matter and body.

*Sir Thomas Browne: Religio Medici.*

**Thitherto**, for the future.~ 'I have acted honestly *hitherto*;  
 and shall act honestly *thitherto*.'

**Thole**. This word is common in Old English and Scottish  
 poetry, and lingers not only in Scottish, but in the Cumbrian  
 and Northumbrian dialect. It signifies to endure or suffer,  
 and has been wrongfully thrust out of English to make room  
 for modern substitutes derived from the French. A still  
 current Saxon synonyme is bear: 'I cannot bear it,' which  
 has the double disadvantage of being a weaker form of ex-  
 pression, and of using a word already pre-occupied in  
 another sense. The Scotch and Northumbrians say of a  
 thing they cannot endure: 'I canna *thole* it.'

So muckle wo as I with you have *tholed*.—*Chaucer*.

What mischief and mal ease Christe for man *tholed*.—*Ibid*.

She shall the death *thole*.

*Gower: Confessio Amantis.*

All that Christe *tholed*.

*Piers Ploughman.*

**Thole**—*continued.*

The montayne cedar *tholes* the blusterous winds.  
*The Evergreen.*

But in vain,  
 I still maun doat and *thole* her proud disdain.  
*Allan Ramsay.*

Better *dree* out the inch when you have *tholed* the span.  
 He that has a good crop ought to *thole* a few thistles.  
 A good heart maun *thole* mickle.  
 He who *tholes*, conquers.

*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

**Tholance**, endurance, sufferance, toleration.

**Tholeable**, endurable.

**Thone**, } moist, damp, limp, soft, pliable; probably derived  
**Thoney**, } from the Gaelic *ton* or *thon*, a wave.

**Thorp**, German, *dorf*, a village. This word still survives as the terminal syllable of the names of many places in England.

There stood a *thorpe* of sight delitable.  
*Chaucer: The Clerke's Tale.*

As we were entering at the *thorpe's* ende.  
*Chaucer: The Person's Prologue.*

By twenty *thorps*, a little town,  
 And half-a-dozen bridges.  
*Tennyson.*

**Thorpsman**, a villager.

To call in from the fields and waters, shops and work-houses, from the inbred stock of more homely women, and less filching *thorpsmen*.  
*Fairfax, 1674.*

**Thoughty**, meditative, pensive.

Fanny is two years younger than I am, and not so *thoughty*, as Philip says.—*Petticoat Tales, Jamieson.*

**Thrall**, from the Gaelic *traill*, a slave; whence *enthrall*, to enslave; and *thraldom*, slavery; words still current in literature.

When they have turned them to the faith they make his *thralls* free out of *thraldom*.—*Chaucer: The Person's Tale.*

This kyng as thou herdest ere this,  
 Hed a *thrall* that dede amiss.

*Religious Poems, Fifteenth Century; quoted by Halliwell.*

**Thrall**—*continued.*

Look gracious on thy prostrate *thrall*.  
*Shakespeare.*

No *thralls* like them that inward bondage have.  
*Sidney.*

Till he redeemed had that lady *thrall*.  
*Spenser's Faerie Queene.*

He drinketh the wine, but at the last  
 The wine drinketh him and bindeth him fast,  
 And laith him drunke by the walle;  
 As him which is his bond *thrall*,  
 And all in his subjection.

*Gower: Confessio Amantis.*

**Thrail,** }  
**Thrale,** } a flail.

**Thring,** }  
**Throng,** } to press, to jostle, to crowd; whence the modern  
**Thrung,** } word, to 'throng.'

A thousand of men,  
*Thrunge* together,  
 Cried upwards to Christ.  
*Piers Ploughman.*

The Scottish word *thrang*—i.e., busy with a crowd of customers—is a remnant of this word, in which, as in many others already noticed, the original preterite has been made to do duty for the infinitive and the present tense.

Twa dogs that werena *thrang* at hame,  
 Forgathered ance upon a time.  
*Burns: The Twa Dogs.*

**Thratch**, to gasp convulsively.

If I but grip you by the collar,  
 I'll gar you gape,  
 And *thratch* for want of breath.  
*Beattie: John o' Arnha'.*

**Thrave,** }  
**Threve,** } a bunch, a bundle, a lot, a company. Twenty-four  
 sheaves of wheat.

And after cometh a knave,  
 The worst of a *thrave*.  
*MS. Lansdown, quoted by Halliwell.*

And I have thoughts a *thrave*.  
*Piers Ploughman.*

**Thrave**—*continued.*

He sends forth *thraves* of ballads to the sale.

*Bishop Hall: Ritson's Ancient Songs.*

A *daimen icker* in a *thrave*; (a random ear of corn from the sheaf).

*Burns: To a Mouse.*

A *thrave* of corn is two shocks of six, or rather, twelve sheaves a piece. The word comes from the British *threva*, twenty-four. In most counties of England, twenty-four sheaves do now go to a *thrave*. Twelve sheaves make a stook, and two stooks make a *thrave*.

*Blount's Glossographia, 1681.*

**Thraw**, *s.*, a turn, a little whirl, a turn of time. To twist, to thwart, to be perverse, or contrary.

When I a little *thrawe* had made my moan,  
Bewailing mine infortune and mischance.

*The King's Quair.*

And when she walked had a little *thrawe*,  
Under the sweete, greene bowis bent,  
Her fair fresh face, as white as any snawe,  
She turned.

*Ibid.*

St. Stephen's boys wi' jarring noise,  
They did his measures *thraw*, man.

*Burns: The American War.*

There are two hens into the crib,  
Have fed this month and mair;  
Make haste and *thraw* their necks about,  
That Colin weel may fare.

*Wm. Julius Mickle: There's nae luck about the house.*

**Thrawn**, cross, perverse; ill-tempered, twisted out of humour.

I'll be as *thrawn* as you, though you were as *thrawn* as the woodie;  
i.e., I'll be as cross as you, though you should be as cross as the gal-  
lows.—*Scottish Proverb.*

**Thrawardness**, perversity.

But, instead of thankful hearts and good obedience, her Highness's  
clemency is commonly abused with *thrawardness* and ingratitude.

*Proclamation of Mary Queen of Scots.*

**Threesome**, triple.

There's *twasome* reels, and *threesome* reels,  
There's hornpipes and strathspeys, man.

*Burns.*

**Threne**, from the Greek *threnos*, a lamentation for the dead.

Whereupon it made this *threne*,  
To the phoenix and the dove.

*The Passionate Pilgrim.*

**Threpe**, to argue or dispute. In the ancient ballad, 'Take thine auld cloak about thee,' quoted by Shakespeare in *Othello*, claimed both by Scotland and by England, and common to both, the husband says :

Bell my wife, she loves not strife,  
Yet she will lead me if she can,  
And oft, to lead a quiet life,  
I'm forced to yield though I'm good man ;  
It's not for a man with a woman to *threpe*.

Chaucer seems to use the word in a different sense, when he says :

The bodies seven \* \* \* \*  
Sol gold is, and Luna silver we *threpe*,  
Mars iron, Mercurie quicksilver, we clepe.

But Chaucer would not employ two synonymous words to rhyme his couplet, and if 'clepe' means to call, *threpe* may mean argue, insist, or assert. 'Sol gold is, and we argue (or *threpe*) that Luna is silver.'

The word is often used in Scottish poetry and romance, and deserves a place in the English vocabulary, to which it strictly belongs.

Some herds well learn'd upo' the book,  
Wad *threap* auld folks the thing mistook.

*Burns.*

Some cry upon God, some others *threpe* that He hath forgotten them.

*Bishop Fisher : quoted in Todd's Johnson.*

In Grose's 'Provincial Glossary,' a shopkeeper's phrase is quoted : 'This is not *threaping* ware ;' meaning, that the ware, or goods, is so obviously of first quality that it needs no arguing about.

**Thrimmel**, to pay a debt reluctantly ; to part with money in a niggardly and mean manner.

Threaden, }  
Thriden, } made of thread.

Which did reveal him then to be indeed

A *thriden* fellow in a silken weede.

*Stephens's Essays and Characters*, 1615; quoted by *Halliwell*.

Thrid, preterite of the verb to thread.

Some *thrid* the mazy ringlets of her hair.—*Pope*.

Thrid, to divide into three parts.—*Jamieson*.

Thrin, three together, a triplet, a trio. This ancient English word, if of no use to prose writers, might be valuable to rhymers.

Thripple, to labour hard.—*Halliwell*.

Thrist, difficulty, hard pressure; stress of circumstance.

Withdrew thee from no perils or hard *thrist*,

But even enforce more strongly to resist.

*Douglas's Æneid*.

Throaty, guttural.

Certain hard *throaty* words which I was taught lately.

*Howell's Familiar Letters*, 1650.

Throdden, to grow, to thrive, to increase.

Throme, a gang, company, or drove.

Throughgang, a thoroughfare.

Throughgoing, active, lively; going through with a thing.

She seems to be a plump and jocose little woman; gleg, blythe, and *throughgaun'* for her years.—*Blackwood's Magazine*.

Betty Lanshaw was an active, *throughgoing* woman.

*Galt's Annals of the Parish*.

Thoroughly, thoroughly.

Throve, preterite of thrive, to prosper.

Thrum, green and vigorous; applied to herbage.

**Thrum**, the tufted part beyond the tie, at the end of the warp in weaving ; any collection of tuft or short thread.—*Nares*.

O fates, come, come,  
Cut thread and *thrum*.

*Shakespeare: Midsummer Night's Dream.*

A child and dead ? alas, how could it come !  
Surely thy thread of life was but a *thrum*.

*Wi's Recreation.*

Thou who wilt not love, doe this,  
Learne of me what woman is,  
Something made of thred and *thrummie*.  
A meere botch of all and some.

*Herrick.*

**Thrummed**, made of coarse refuse thread or wool.

There's her *thrummed* hat, her muffler too ! Run up, Sir John !  
*Shakespeare: Merry Wives of Windsor.*

**Thrumble**, sometimes written thrimble ; to press violently, as a crowd, or into a crowd.

Peter, who was ever maist sudden, sayes, thou art *thrumbled* and thrustud by the multitude.—*Bruce's Sermons.*

**Thrupp**, to squeeze, or press violently in a crowd.—*Jamieson.*

**Thrunch**, much displeased, very angry.

**Thrunk**, busy, fussy.

**Thrunk-wife**, a fussy, meddlesome woman.

**Thrut**, the length of the *throw* of a stone ; or of the flight of an arrow.

**Thud**, a dull, heavy blow.

Neither the Dictionaries of Johnson nor Richardson, nor those of Webster and Worcester, contain this word. Nares, and his most recent editors, make no mention of it ; but Mr. Halliwell (Dictionary of Archaic and Provincial Words), defines it to mean a 'heavy blow.' This is scarcely its true signification. A sharp, quick, 'heavy blow,' would be a thump ; but a dull, slow, ponderous blow would be a *thud*, such as the shock of a heavy billow against the side of a ship.

Fra fearful *thuds* of the tempestuous tide.

*Douglas's Æneid.*

**Thud**—*continued.*

The air grew rough with bousteous (boisterous) *thuds*.  
*Allan Ramsay.*

Here Doon pours down his far-fetched floods,  
 There, well-fed Irvine stately *thuds*.

*Burns.*

Loud roars the blast among the woods,  
 And tirls the branches rarely,  
 On hill and house hear how it *thuds*.

*Burns.*

The brave Lochiel as I heard tell,  
 Led Camerons on in clouds, man;  
 The morning fair, and clear the air,  
 They loos'd with devilish *thuds*, man.

*Ballad of Tranent Muir.*

Whose thundering with wondering,  
 I heard up through the air;  
 Through cluds so, he *thuds* so,  
 And flew I wist not where.

*The Cherry and the Sloe.*

**Thurse**, a giant; a spectre.—*Wright's Provincial Dictionary.*

**Thurte**, might, need.

As faire a ladye to his wife had he,  
 As any earthly creature *thurte* see.

*Sir Isumbras.*

**Thwaite**, a wood cut down, grubbed up, and converted into arable land. This word constantly occurs in the Northern counties, as a termination to the names of places; as *Micklethwaite*, *Hemelthwaite*, *Owthwaite*, &c.

**Thwart**, an ill-tempered person, who *thwarts* others. In Berkshire, according to Mr. Halliwell, a 'thurt' has the same meaning.

And be a *thwart*, disnatured, to torment her.

*Shakespeare: King Lear.*

**Thwartover**, contrary, transverse, across.

And for fifteen long days and nights, the *thwart-over* and cross north-easterly wind blew us nothing but lengthening of our sorrow.

*Taylor's Works*, 1630.

**Tickle**, dangerous, difficult; whence the modern phrase, 'a *ticklish* question,' &c.

A matter dangerous to the state, and *tickle* to the crown.

*Bowe's Correspondence*, 1538.



Tid,  
Tyd,  
Tytte, } quickly ; from *tide*, time ; German *zeit*.

I shall tell thee as *tyd*,  
What this tree hight.—*Piers Ploughman*.

And he turned him as *tyd*.  
And then took I heede.—*Ibid*.

Lord, that I have done, forgive me *tytte*.  
*MS. Harleian (Halliwell)*.

If this derivation be correct, it is possible that the modern phrase a 'tid-bit,' or dainty bit, meant originally a bit eaten quickly, on account of its daintiness. Worcester defines 'tid' to mean 'tender,' 'soft.'

**Tidder**, tender, soft, frail.

**Tidderness**, tenderness, frailty.

**Tide**, to happen, to befall. This word survives in the intensive form to 'betide,' and in the exclamation, 'Woe betide you !'

**Tidde**, happened ; preterite of tide.

**Tift**, a slight blow, an impulsion.

Five-and-twenty silver bells  
Were a' tyed to his mane,  
And at ae *tift* of the norland wind  
They twinkled ane by ane.  
*Ritson's Ancient Songs*.

**Tifty**, quarrelsome.

Then up spake one, a maid forlorn  
With supple tongue and *tifty*.  
*Jameson*.

**Tilt**, violence.

He's in a *tilt* (of passion) ; probably derived from a *tilt* at a tournament, when a person rides violently against an opposing object.

**Tilty**, violent, unreasonably ill-tempered.—*Barnes's Roots and Stems of the English as a Teutonic Tongue*.

**Tilth**, tillage, cultivated land ; the produce of tilling.

**Tilth**—*continued.*

So that the *tilthe* is nigh forlorn,  
Which Christ sewe (sowed) with his own hande.  
*Gower.*

Full *tilth* and husbandry.  
*Shakespeare: Measure for Measure.*

Give the fallow land their seasons and their *tilth*.  
*Drayton.*

Look where the full-eared sheaves of rye  
Grow wavy on the *tilth*.  
*Philips.*

In Northamptonshire, according to Sternberg's 'Glossary,' *tilth* means a ploughing. 'That piece of land must have a fresh *tilth* over.' 'That farm is in good *tilth*,' i.e., well cultivated.

**Tine**, to lose, or be lost.

**Tint**, lost. This ancient English word survives in Scotland both in conversation and literature.

What was *tint* through tree,  
Tree shall it win.  
*Fiers Ploughman.*

The turtle that *tyne* her make (mate).  
*MS. Harl.*

That is our God so gracious,  
And is so loth man's soul to *tyne*.  
*Cursor Mundi.*

His knife was *tini*, his sheath was ta'en,  
His scabbard from his thigh was gane.  
*Metrical Romance of Sir Eger, Sir Grahame, and Sir Gray Steel.*

I never saw a fairer,  
I never loved a dearer,  
And next my heart I'll wear her,  
For fear my jewel *tine*.  
*Burns: My wife's a winsome wee thing.*

Where there is nothing, the king *tines* his right.

All's not *tint* that's in danger.

Better spoil your joke than *tine* your friend.

Give *ining* gamesters leave to grumble.  
*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

**Tint**—*continued*.

He never *tint* a cow that grat (wept) for a needle.

He wad *tine* his ears if they werena tacked (fastened) to him.

Time *tint* is ne'er found again.

*Tine* heart and all's gone.

*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

**Tin,** } a fire; to kindle a fire; from the Gaelic *teine*, fire;  
**Tind,** } whence *Beltin*, or *Beltaine*, the fire kindled on the  
**Tine,** } night of the first of May, to Bel, the Sun, by the Celtic  
 nations; whence also the modern word *tinder*.

Coals of contention, and hot vengeance *tined*.

*Spenser's Faerie Queene.*

If my puffed life be out, give leave to *tine*,  
 My shameless snuff at that bright light of thine.

*Quarles' Emblems.*

One candle *tindeth* a thousand.

*Sanderson's Sermons*, 1689.

**Tindles**, fires made by children in Derbyshire on the night of All Souls.—*Halliwell*.

**Ting**, to sound; whence the diminutive tingle or *tinkle*, a small or soft sound; whence also *tang*, the preterite, *q.v.*; and tongue (*tung*), that which makes the sound.

**Tinsel**, signifying anything shining with false lustre, is generally supposed to have its origin from the French *étincelle*, a spark; or from the Latin *scintilla*. More probably the true derivation is to be sought in *tyne*, to lose; whence *tynsail*, *tinsal*, and *tynsal*, defined in Jamieson's Dictionary as 'loss of whatever kind.' In this sense, the small pieces and remnants thrown off in the manufacture of articles of gold, silver, and precious stones, originally called *tinsel*, and afterwards used up, or applied to the ornamentations of cloths, silks, and velvets, may have led to the secondary meaning of the word; as signifying the appearance, rather than the reality of gold. Beaumont and Fletcher speak of 'tinsel affections,' i.e., affections that were not of the real gold of love, though they might shine like it.

**Tinsel**—*continued.*

Goodly apparel of *tinsel*, cloth of gold, and velvet.  
*Strype.*

Nothing can be more contemptible than that *tinsel* splendour of language which some writers continually affect.  
*Blair.*

My profit is not your *tinsel*.  
*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

**Tireling**, one who is easily tired or worn out with work or exercise.

**Tirl**, to spin round, to put in motion; to twist at the knob, pin, or fastening of a door. This is a very common word in ancient ballads, both English and Scotch.

Oh he's gone round and round about,  
And *tirled* at the pin.  
*Willie and May Margaret.*

**Tirl**, to unroof, to uncover, to take the top off.

While on the strong-winged tempest flyin',  
*Tirlin'* the kirks.  
*Burns: Address to the Deil.*

**Tirly**, rotatory, that which has a spinning motion.

**Tith**, tight, taut, strong, vigorous.

She's good mettle; of a good stirring strain;  
She goes *tith*.  
*Beaumont and Fletcher.*

Take a widow,  
A good stanch wench, that's *tith*.  
*Idem.*

**Toare**, grass and rubbish, or corn land after the corn is reaped, the long sour grass in pasture fields.—*Halliwel.*

**Tocher**, a dowry; a word principally applied to the fortunes of persons in the middle and lower ranks of life, who are too poor to give to their daughters *dowries*. A *tocher* stands in about the same relation to a dowry as a house does to a mansion.

**Tocher**—*continued.*

A cow and a calf,  
 An ox and a half,  
 Forty good shillings and three,  
 Is not that enough *tocher*  
 For a shoemaker's daughter?

*Nursery Rhymes of England; by J. O. Halliwell.*

The bonnie lass *tocherless*, has mair wooers than chances of a husband.

The greatest *tochers* make not ever the greatest testaments.

Marry a beggar, and get a louse for your *tocher*.

Better a *tocher* in her than on her.

Maiden's *tochers*, and minister's stipends, are aye less than they are ca'd.

*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

Oh meikle thinks my love o' my beauty,  
 And meikle thinks my love o' my kin,  
 But little thinks my love I ken brawly,  
 My *tocher's* the jewel has charms for him.  
*Burns.*

**Tod**, a large tuft, bunch, or bush of ivy.

At length within the ivy *tod*,  
 There shrouded was the little god.  
 I heard a busy bustling.

*Spenser: Shepherd's Calendar.*

There valiant and approved men of Britain,  
 Like boding owls, creep into *tods* of ivy,  
 And hoot their fears to one another nightly.  
*Beaumont and Fletcher.*

The owle, till then, 'tis thought, full well could sing,  
 And tune her voice to every bubbling spring,  
 But when she heard those plaints, then forth she yode,  
 Out of the covert of an ivy *tod*,  
 And hallooing for aid, so strained her throat,  
 That since, she clean forgot her former note.

*Brown: Britannia's Pastorals.*

In Suffolk, according to Mr. Halliwell, any bush at the top of a pollard, is called a *tod*.

**Tod**, the common name for a fox in Scotland, and formerly in England.

Tod—*continued.*

Driv'st hence the wolf, the *tod*, the brock,  
And other vermin from the flock.

*Ben Jonson.*

Toit, a fit of ill-humour.

Toitish, ill-tempered, snappish.

Tole, } to draw, or pull, whence '*toll* the bell,' i.e., pull the  
Toll, } bell.

Who like the bee, *tolling* from every flower  
The virtuous sweets.

*Shakespeare: Henry IV. pt. ii.*

A dog is *tolled* with a bone.

*Nares.*

Be sure to *tole* him on by insensible degrees.

*Of Education, quoted by Nares.*

Curvets, runs, whittles, waves, and *toles* him on.

*Fairfax: Tasso.*

Tolt, to give yourself a blow by striking your head against a beam.—*Baker's Northamptonshire Glossary.*

Tolter, to move heavily and clumsily.

From cottage-door, farm-house, and dusty lane,  
Where home the cart-horse *tolters* with the wain.

*Clare's Village Minstrel.*

Tote, to peep.

With his knopped shoon,  
Clouted full thick,  
His toen (toes) *totened* out.

*Piers Ploughman.*

Then *toted* I into a tavern,  
And there I espied,  
Two frere Carmes,  
With a full coppe.—*Ibid.*

Touse, } to pull, to struggle; the Gaelic *tuisill*, to stumble;  
Touze, } whence also the modern word 'tussle.'

In feats of arms, and life's dread desperation,  
I *touse* to gain me fame and reputation.

*Ford, 1606.*

**Towser,** { a rude, violent person, who pulls others about ;  
**Touzer,** { whence the common name for a dog, who is a good  
 ratter.

But let him loose among the kitchen maids ; never was seen so ter-  
 magant a *towser*.—*Otway*, 1684.

**Tousie,** { disordered, dishevelled, uncombed.  
**Towzie,** { 'A *tousie* head,' one that has not been combed.

His *towsie* back  
 Was glossy black.

*Burns: The Twa Dogs.*

**Tout,** { to blow upon a horn ; whence the modern word, 'a  
**Toot,** { *touter*,' a man who stands at the door of a shop to  
 entice people in. To blow one's own trumpet ; or to *tout*  
 one's own abilities, is an expression that conveys a similar  
 meaning.

In Wicliffe's translation of the Bible, the word '*tooter*' is  
 used to express a spy, or scout ; a man stationed on a tower  
 to blow a horn as a signal of danger.

In Scotland it is said of an old story revived, and told in  
 a new manner, that 'it is an auld *tout* in a new horn.'

**Tout-hill,** a hill or eminence, on which, in time of war or  
 danger, a man was stationed to *tout* or blow a horn as a  
 signal.

**Tow,** a rope, whence to *tow*, to pull with a rope.

**Tozy,** soft, tender.

**Toziness,** softness, tenderness. — *Wright's Provincial Dic-  
 tionary*.

**Traik,** to go idly about from place to place ; to wander with-  
 out purpose ; to lose one's self for want of thought whither  
 one is going ; to follow after women.

He's none of the birds that *traik* ; i.e., he will not wander from the  
 right way ; he can take care of himself.

*Northern Proverb.*

There is not a huzzy on this side of thirty that ye can bring within  
 your doors, but there will be chiels, writer lads, 'prentice lads, and  
 what not, come *traiking* after them for their destruction.

*Sir Walter Scott: Heart of Mid-Lothian.*

**Trail**, a term of reproach for a slatternly woman who lets her garments *trail* in the mire ; a draggle-tailed slut. *A trull.*

**Traily**, slovenly.

**Traipse**, to trail or draggle in the dirt or slush ; applied to a slovenly woman.

**Trame**, treachery, deceit.

**Trangle**, one's own idea, device, way, or will.

Let them take their own *trangle*.

*Leicestershire: Wright's Provincial Dictionary.*

**Trant**, trade, barter ; also a trick or stratagem.

**Tranter**, a pedlar, a hawkker of small wares ; a carrier.

And had some *tranting* merchant to his sire.

That trafficked both by water and by fire.

*Half's Satires.*

**Trantles**, articles of little value ; toys ; petty articles of furniture.—*Jamieson.*

**Tranty**, tricky, crotchety, applied to a child that is wise and forward beyond its years.—*Barnes' Roots and Stems of English.*

**Treddie**, a street walker.

**Treen**, the old plural of tree ; also wooden, or made of a tree.

Ane *treene* truncheon, ane ramshorne spoone.

*Bannatyne.*

Sir Thomas Rokeby being controlled for first suffering himself to be served in *treene* cuppes ; answered : ' These homely cups and dishes pay truly for that they containe. I had rather drink out of *treene*, and pay gold and silver, than drink out of gold and silver, and make wooden payment.—*Camden's Remains.*

Erminia's steed the while his mistress bore,  
Under safe shelter of the shadie *treen*.

*Fairfax: Tasso.*

**Trend**, to make a considerable bend or turn.

Not far beneath, i' the valley as she *trends*,  
Her silver stream.

*Brown: Britannia's Pastorals.*

**Tendency**, a strong deviation.



**Trice**, from thrice. A space of time in which you can count three. 'A brace of shakes,' a similar phrase, means while you can count two, or sing two notes, shakes, or trills. 'I'll do it in a *trice*,' is still a common phrase. Chambers's 'Etymological Dictionary' admits this word, and traces it to the Spanish *tris*, noise of breaking glass, and states that its literal signification is a *crack*, a very short time. The same derivation is given in Wedgwood's 'Dictionary of English Etymology.'

In this *trice* of time,  
Commit a thing so monstrous.

*Shakespeare: King Lear.*

**Trichard**, a cheat, a trickster; from the French *tricher*, to cheat, to trick.

Richard, that thou be ever *trichard*.

*Song against the Emperor of Almaine: Temp. Chaucer.*

**Trig**, neat, fine, well-dressed, well-made; also a fop, or a person giving too much attention to his personal appearance.

It is my humour, you are a pimp and a *trig*,  
An Amadis de Gaul, a Don Quixote.

*Ben Jonson: The Alchemist.*

And you among them a', John,  
Sae *trig* from top to toe.

*Burns: John Anderson.*

**Trine**, a conjunction of three.

**Triple-trine**, three times three; applied by the Elizabethan poets to the nine muses.

**Trod**, a footpath.

**Troggin**, pedlars' wares, or any miscellaneous collection. The words *troke* and *truck*, to barter, are from the same root. *Truck*, in the Eastern counties of England, signifies odds and ends; and in America, a load of miscellaneous vegetables or other articles.

They purchased homespun calico, salt, rum, tobacco, and such other *truck* as their necessities called for.—*Chronicles of Penneville.*

Buy braw *troggin*,  
Frae the banks o' Dee;  
Wha wants *troggin*,  
Let him come to me.—*Burns.*

**Troke**, } to barter; from whence the '*truck* system' in the  
**Truck**, } manufacturing districts.

**Troll**, to pass round the bottle at table ; to troll or trundle a hoop.

Then doth she *troll* to me the bowl,  
 Ev'n as a mault worm shoulde  
 And saith, sweet heart, I take my part,  
 Of this jolly good ale and old.  
*Gammer Gurton's Needle.*

*Troll* about the bridal bowl,  
 And divide the broad bride cake.—*Ben Jonson.*

Nappy ale,  
 Good and stale ;  
 In a brown bowl,  
 Which did about the board merrily *trowl*.  
*Percy's Reliques: the King and the Miller of Mansfield.*

**Tron**, from the Gaelic *Trom*, heavy, weighty. There is a *Tron* Church in Edinburgh and another in Glasgow ; but the Scottish glossaries and Jamieson's 'Scottish Dictionary' make no mention of the word. It would appear from a passage in Hone's 'Every-day Book' that 'Tron' signified a public weighing-machine or scale in a market-place, where purchasers of commodities might without fee satisfy themselves that the weight of the purchase was correct according to the charge. Hence a 'Tron Church' was a church in the market-place near which the public weighing-machine was established.

**Troth-plight**, the passing of a solemn vow or pledge of faith ; the person who is security for the fidelity of another.

As rank as any flax-wench, that puts to before her *troth-plight*.  
*Shakespeare: Winter's Tale.*

Nay ! and to him my *troth-plight*, and my friend.  
*Heywood.*

**Trull**, a term of contempt for a woman ; from trowl or troll, to run, to trundle ; whence, one that runs or walks the streets, a prostitute.

**Trundle**, a wheel. 'You must take your *trundle*,' (i.e., your chance or turn at the wheel of Fate) : *Northamptonshire.*

**Tryste**, a place of meeting ; a rendezvous. A purely English word, from the Anglo-Saxon *trwsian*, to confide, whence,

**Tryste**—*continued* :

trust, trustful, and mistrustful. When two persons, appointed to meet at a designated spot on a future day, each *trusted* or *trysted* that the other would be true to the hour and place; and thus such phrases as a '*trysting* tree,' and a *trysting* bower,' for the meeting of lovers; and Falkirk *tryste*, where the great cattle drovers of the North and South of Scotland agreed to assemble every year, and thus established a fair. Chaucer uses the word in '*Troilus and Cressida*,' in the sense of a rendezvous, though the etymology of the word was not clear to 'Urry,' his editor.

Lo ! holde thee at thy *triste*.

In the '*Ballad of the Reid Squair*' (1576), preserved in a MS. in the Cotton Library, and printed by Ritson, occurs :

On July seventh this suthē to say,  
At the Reid Squair the *tryst* was set.

The word did not survive the days of Chaucer in English poetry; but it remained a living flower in Scottish verse and parlance. Its obvious beauty and convenience, rendered it familiar to all the readers of Burns and Scott; and it has since been adopted by some of the purest English writers, and partially restored to that place in the English Dictionary which it ought never to have lost.

George Douglas caused a *trist* (tryste) to be set between him and the Cardinal and four lords, at the which *trist*, he and the Cardinal agreed finally without the Queen's advice.

*Letter dated September, 1543; quoted by Nares.*

The tenderest hearted maid,  
That ever bided *tryst* at village stile.—*Alfred Tennyson.*

By the wine-god he swore it.  
And named a *trysting* day.—*Macaulay.*

**Tuggle**, from 'tug,' to pull by short, sharp, repeated jerks.

*Tuggling* and struggling how to get him free.  
*Ross's Helenore.*

**Tussock**, a tuft of feathers; whence *tussock*-grass, a grass with a feathery crest.

**Tuz**, a knot of hair or wool; an entanglement.

**Twattle**, to talk loudly and idly, and several persons at a time ; *betwattled* is a common expression in many parts of England and in America, to signify the condition of a person whose brain has been confused by contradictory opinions, and loud speaking.

**Twiddle**, to be busy about nothing ; whence the phrase, ' to *twiddle* one's thumbs,' expressive of the useless activity of an idle person.

**Twime**, } a couplet.

**Thrime**, } a triplet.

These words are written in an old hand, on the margin of a copy of Blount's 'Glossographia, 1681.' No authority for their use is given ; but the words are consonant with the structure of the language ; and would be useful if favoured with literary acceptance.

**Twine**, to deprive.

To *twine* me o' my gear.—*Allan Ramsay*.

*Twines* many a poor doylt drunken carle,  
Of half his days.

*Burns: Scotch Drink.*

**Twingle**, to twine round.

**Twink**, this word has been almost wholly superseded by its diminutive *twinkle*.

Aye, with a *twink*,  
Before you can say come and go.

*Shakespeare: Twelfth Night.*

**Twire**, to turn round, to peep out, whence the diminutive *twirl*, to turn round rapidly.

When sparkling stars *twire* out.

*Shakespeare: Sonnet xxxiv.*

I saw the wench that *twired* and twinked at them.

*Baumont and Fletcher.*

**Twissle**, } that part of the tree where the branch separates  
**Twistle**, } from the trunk or bole.

**Twissle**, one of two apples, two cherries, or any other fruit growing on a single stem.

As from a tree, we sundrey times espy,  
A *twissle* grown by Nature's subtle might.

*Turberville (quoted by Naras).*

**Twist**, a crotchet, a perverse idea.

**Twisty**, contentious, ill-humoured, capricious.

**Twitch**, to tie tightly.

**Twitch-grass**, a species of long grass, so named from its tenacity or stringiness.

**Twychild**, a man or woman in extreme old age or second childhood; from *twy*, twice.

And when thou shalt grow *twychilde*, she shall be,  
Careful and kind, religiously to thee.

*Davies: Scourge of Folly (Halliwell).*

**Tyke**, a rough, shaggy, mongrel dog.

Now are they lowe cherles,  
*Tikes* and cherles.—*Piers Ploughman*.

Base *tike*, call'st thou me host?—*Shakespeare: Henry V.*

Bobtail *tike*, or trundle-tail.—*Shakespeare: King Lear.*

You have lost your own stomach, and found a *tyke's*.

I'm as tired of it, as a *tyke* of lang kale.

*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

Luath in the 'Twa Dogs,' by Burns, was 'a gash and faithful *tyke*, as ever leaped a ditch or dyke;' and the Deil in 'Tam o' Shanter,' sat on a window sill in the shape of

A towsy *tyke*, black, grim, and large.'

Ug, to feel abhorrence, or disgust at.

This word has been supposed to be one of the many derived from natural sounds, and from the exclamation *ugh*, which people involuntarily make when any frightfully disagreeable object starts up before them. Possibly, however, its root is the Gaelic *aog*, death, a skeleton, and *aogail*, ghastly, death-like. In England, as well as in America, the word *ugly* has recently acquired a new meaning—i.e., vicious, ill-tempered.

The rattling drum, and trumpets' tout,  
Delight young swankies that are stout,  
What his kind frightened mother *ugs*,  
Is music to the soldier's lugs.

*Jameson's Ballads.*

Ugsome, ugly.

The hornid bird which we clepe the night owl;  
*Ugsome* to hear was her wild eldritch shriek.

*Douglas: Translation of Virgil.*

The *ugsomeness* and silence of the night.

*Idem.*

May chains then, and pains then,  
Infernal be his hire,  
Who dang us, and flang us,  
Into this *ugsome* mire.

*Allan Ramsay: The Vision.*

Um, Gaelic *uime*, round, or around. This prefix was once as common to English as it still is to German verbs.

Um-be-clippe, to clasp round or embrace.

Um-be-grippe, to seize, or grip round.

Um-be-lappe, to wrap round.

Um-be-set, to beset on every side.

Um-besiege, to besiege round about; to encompass a city with armed men.

**Um-be-thinke**, to bethink one's self of all surroundings (or circumstances), to remember.

He *um-be-thoughte* him of ane slight.  
Barbour.

Tim Bobbin gives *um-be-thought*, as used in Lancashire, in the sense of remembered.—*Jamieson*.

**Umgang**, circuit, circumference.

**Umgrip**, to seize.

**Umlap**, to enfold.

**Umset**, to surround.

**Umwhile**, formerly, *ci-devant*.

**Unbuxom**, uncomely; the reverse of *buxom*. Some lexicographers derive this word from the German *beugsam*, obedient, pliable; and others from *buck*, a bosom, whence *buck-some*, having a large or full bosom, plump, hearty-looking, comely.

To storm and to scolde,  
Sclaunders to make,  
Both *unbuxome* and bolde.

*Piers Ploughman.*

**Uncanny**, unlucky. A word common in the North of England and Scotland.

'Captain!' said Dinmont in a half-whisper, 'I wish she binna *uncanny*.'—*Scott: Guy Mannering*.

I was, by this experience of his watchful Providence over this great cause, made hopeful he would not suffer it to be spoiled by the imprudence of many *uncanny* hands which are about it.

*Baillie's Letters.*

This Northern word seems to have been corrupted in the literature of the seventeenth century in England, to '*incony*.' Nares was at a loss to understand this last word, and says that it means 'sweet, pretty, delicate,' and that the derivation is from the northern word '*canny*,' in which he is right, and that the '*in*' is intensive, and means *very* *canny*, in which he seems to be wrong. He cites the following examples:

**Uncanny**—*continued.*

My sweet ounce of flesh, my *incony* hand.  
*Shakespeare: Love's Labour's Lost.*

Love me little, love me long, let music rumble,  
 While I in thy *incony* lap do tumble.  
*Jew of Malta.*

Farewell, Dr. Doddy,  
 In mind and in body,  
 An excellent noddy,  
 A coxcomb *incony*.  
*Dr. Doddipol.*

**Unchancy**, bringing ill-luck.

Down the gate, in faith they're worse,  
 And mair *unchancy*.  
*Burns: Epistle to John Kennedy.*

**Unchary**, not careful, not chary.

I have said too much unto a heart of stone,  
 And laid mine honor too *unchary* on't.  
*Shakespeare: Twelfth Night.*

**Undergrub**, to underdig or undermine. This is a purer compound than its modern synonyme, both words being English; whereas, undermine is half English, half French.

**Under-sort**, the lower-class; the mob, the vulgar.

**Under-skinker**, an under-waiter, or drawer.

I give thee this pennyworth of sugar, clapped even now into my hand by an *undersinker*, one that never spake other English in his life than 'Eight-and-sixpence,' or 'You are welcome.'  
*Shakespeare: 1st part of Henry VI.*

**Under-wrought**, undermined, underdug, or undergrubbed.

**Uneared**, unploughed, untilled, uncultivated.

In where is she so fair, whose *uneared* womb  
 Disdains the tillage of thy husbandry?  
*Shakespeare's Sonnets.*

**Unease**, uneasiness, vexation, trouble.

Shun thou the seas,  
 Which breed *unease*, and quiet live on land.  
*Kendall's Flowers of Epigrams, 1577.*

**Uneath**, } uneasily, scarcely.  
**Uneith**, }

*Uneath* may she endure the flinty streets.  
*Shakespeare: 2nd part of Henry VI.*



Whether 'twas day or night *unwith* wist we.  
*Douglas: Æneid.*

Unfast, loose, unfastened.

Unfurthersome, a term applied in the North to unfavourable weather ; that does not *further* or advance the ripening of the crops.

Ungentleman, a churl, a boor, a low person ; one not a gentleman.

A strict observance of the niceties of speech was more important as an indication of breeding (in the fifteenth century), or in the words of Dame Juliana Berners (the reputed author of the Book of St. Albans), as a means of distinguishing 'gentylnen from *ungentylnen*,' than a rigorous conformity to the rules of grammar, or even to the moral law.  
*Marsh's Lectures on the English Language.*

Unhale, not in a hale or hearty condition ; sick, unwell.

Unheartsome, melancholy.

It is an *unheartsome* thing to see our father and mother agree so ill.—*Rutherford's Letters.*

Unhearty, timid, listless ; without zeal or heart.

Unhouselled, not having received the last sacrament ; from housell, to receive the sacrament.

A priest, a priest, says Aldingar,  
 Me for to *housle* and shrive.  
*Percy's Reliques, Sir Aldingar.*

Cut off even in the blossom of my sin,  
*Unhousell'd.*  
*Shakespeare: Hamlet.*

Unleal, disloyal, dishonest.

Unlifty, not to be easily lifted ; unwieldy.

Unloveable, } unamiable.  
 Unlovesome, }

Unsnæck, to draw the snæck, latch, or bolt of a door.

Tip toe she tripped it o'er the floor,  
 She drew the bar, *unsneek'd* the door.  
*Jameson's Popular Ballads.*

Unsnod, rough, not smooth, in disorder.

My claes aye *unsnod*,  
And my face seldom clean.

*Hector MacNeil.*

Unsonsy, unfortunate ; from the Gaelic *sonas*, good fortune.

Unsodden, unboiled.

Untholeable, intolerable ; not to be *tholed* or endured.

Untrowable, incredible, not to be *trowed* or believed.

Unwinnable, impregnable.

This crag, *unwynnable* by ingine of man.—*Boethius.*

Unwinsome, not engaging in manners ; ugly, affected.

Unwit, ignorance, folly, want of sense.

Unwroken, unavenged.

*Unwroken* shall we die ?—*Douglas : Æneid.*

Upgang, an ascent, an acclivity.

Uphoven, past participle of *upheave*.

This word occurs in Wicliffe's translation of the Bible, and merits re-introduction, as not only more correct, but more easily pronounceable, than upheaved.

Upstir, to rouse, to excite.

Upstirring, an excitement or insurrection of the people.

Ure, chance, fate, fortune. From the French *heur*, a word now only used with the adjectives *bon* and *mal*, to signify good and evil fortune.

Drive the thing right to the end,  
And take the *ure* that God will send.

*Barbour.*

Urf, a stunted, ill-grown child, nearly synonymous with *urk*.

Ye useless, weasel-like *urf*, that ye are.

*Hogg : The Brownie of Bodsbeck.*

Urk, a small, undergrown child ; whence the diminutive *urchin*.

**Vade**, to fade quickly, to go to death or decay. This word is not exactly synonymous with fade, as appears from its use by Shakespeare and other writers who employ both *vade* and *fade* in the same sentence.

Sweet rose, fair flower, untimely pluck'd, soon *vaded*.  
Pluck'd in the bud ; and *faded* in the spring.

*Shakespeare: Sonnets.*

Beauty is but a vain and doubtful good,  
A shining gloss that *vadeth* suddenly ;

\* \* \* \* \*

A doubtful good, a gloss, a glass, a flower,  
Lost, broken, *vaded*, dead within an hour.

*Idem.*

No fading, *vading* flower.

*Brathwait, Strappado for the Devil, 1615.*

**Vady**, damp, musty ; decaying.

**Vap**, vapidity, refuse, dregs.

In vain it is to wash a goblet, if you mean to put nothing into it, but the dead lees and *vap* of wine.—*Bishop Taylor.*

**Veck**, an old woman ; from the Italian *veechia*, old.

Which hath ordained Jealousie,  
Yon olde *Veck*, for to espie  
The manner of his governance.

*Chaucer: Romance of the Rose.*

**Venn**, slush, mud.

**Vennel**, a gutter to carry off the slush.

Both of these words are used in the North, but have disappeared from Southern English.

Trailing on the *venne*.

*MS. Lansdowne (Halliwell).*

**Vinewed**, mouldy.

Many of Chaucer's words are become, as it were, *vinewed* and hoarie with over long lying.—*Beaumont: Letter to Speght, 1602.*

The word blue *vinewed*, or blue mouldy, is still current in the South of England.

Virelai, }  
Virelay, } a round, a catch, a rondeau ; from *vire*, to turn.

Ballads, *virelays*, and verses vain.

*Spenser : Faerie Queene.*

Then slumber not with dull Endymion,  
But tune thy reed to dapper *virelays*.

*Drayton : Polyolbion.*

Virr, } force, impetus. A man without strength of mind or  
Bir, } purpose, is said in the Border counties and in Scotland,  
to have no *bir* in him.

The lads unwilling yet to stir,  
Fire off their monny guns in *virr*.

*Beattie's Tales.*

Wi' double *virr* the drummers drum.

*Mayne's Siller Gun.*

Come life, come death, I'll fight with all my *bir*.

*Hamilton's Wallace.*

Voth, outlawry.

*Voth* signifies outlawry ;—*utlagium*.

*Skene.*

Vothman, an outlaw.—*Jamieson.*

**Wad**, straw, or a bundle of straw ; whence *wadding*, to signify a stuffing with straw ; whence also the title of the old song, 'Moll in the Wad,' i.e., Moll in the straw, after childbirth.

Moll in the *wad* and I fell out,  
I'll tell you what 'twas all about :  
She had money and I had none,  
That's the way the row begun.

*Old Song.*

A wispe of rushes, or any *wad* of hay that's next to hand, they'll steal.—*Taylor: The Water Poet.*

**Wad**, } a wager, a bet, a pledge ; from whence a wedding, or  
**Wed**, } pledging of faith at the altar ; and also wad-set, a mortgage.

**Wadder**, a man who makes bets.

There is no leech in all this laud,  
Can put a finger to a hand,  
The finger that he left in *wed*.

*Sir Eger, Sir Grahame, and Sir Gray Steel.*

Wishers and *wadders*;  
Were never good househadders.

A *wad* is a fool's argument.

If *wads* were horses, beggars would ride.

*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

What will you wager, Wise William ?  
My lands I'll *wad* with thee.

\* \* \* \* \*

I'll *wad* my head against your land,  
Till I get more monie.

*Redisdale and Wise William ; Motherwell's Ancient Minstrelsy.*

**Waft**, to beckon ; to make a wavy motion with the hand. A word obsolete in this sense ; and now employed to signify the action of the wind in impelling a ship to its destination.

But, soft, who *wafts* us yonder ?

*Shakespeare: Comedy of Errors.*

A flag, *wafting* us back again.

*Hackluyt.*

Waft—*continued.*

This word appears to have sometimes been written *weft*, preterite of *waft*; as in the following passage from 'Robinson Crusoe':

She gave three *wefts* with her ancient.

Wafter, a frigate or man-of-war that conducts merchant ships to port.—*Blount's Glossographia*, 1611.

Wafture, a signal, a beckoning motion of the hand; from waft.

But with an angry *wafture* of your hand,  
Gave sign for me to leave you.

*Shakespeare: Julius Caesar.*

Wair, to lay out, to expend judiciously.

The best o' chieles are whiles in want,  
While coofs on countless thousands rant,  
And ken na how to *wair* it.

*Burns: Epistle to Davie, a brother poet.*

Wale, to choose, to select; from the Anglo-Saxon and German *wahlen*, one of the oldest words in the English language.

Then *wale* a virgin, worthy you,  
Worthy your love and martial vow.

*Allan Ramsay: Epistle to Robert Yarde of Devonshire.*

He *wales* a portion wi' judicious care.

*Burns: Cotter's Saturday Night.*

I'd hang you up in good green wood,  
And cause your own hand *wale* the tree.

*John Thomson and the Turk.*

Then o'er again the jovial throng  
The poet did request,  
To loose his pack, and *wale* as gay  
A ballad as the best.

*Burns: The Jolly Beggars.*

Wale, choice; the best of anything.

There's auld Rob Morris that wons in yon glen,  
The king of good fellows, the *wale* of auld men.—*Burns.*

Supple scones, the *wale* o' food.—*Burns.*

The laird of Balnamo, after dinner at a friend's house, had cherry-brandy put before him in mistake for port. He liked the liquor, and drank freely of it. His servant Harry or Hairy was to drive him

**Wale**—*continued*.

home in a gig or whiskey. On crossing the moor, whether from greater exposure to the blast, or from the laird's unsteadiness of head, his hat and wig fell to the ground. Harry got off to pick them up and restore them to his master. The laird was satisfied with the hat, but demurred to the wig. 'It's no my wig, Hairy, lad; it's no my wig,' 'Ye'd better tak' it, sir,' said Harry, 'for there's nae *wale* o' wigs on the moor.'—*Dean Ramsay's Reminiscences*.

**Walie,** } choice.  
**Waly,** }

There was a winsome wench and *walie*.

*Burns: Tam o' Shanter.*

This *waly* boy will be no coof (fool),  
 I think we'll ca' him Robin.—*Burns*.

**Waly**, woefully, alas! An exclamation of sorrow.

Oh *waly*! *waly*! up the bank,  
 And *waly*! *waly*! down the brae.

*Percy's Reliques of Ancient English Poetry.*

**Wallow,** } flat, insipid, tasteless.  
**Wallowish,** }

**Wame**, the belly, or womb. This word, general in Scotland, is used in the Northern counties of England, as far south as Yorkshire.

**Wanchance**, misfortune.

**Wanchancie**, unlucky.

Wae worth the man who first did shape,  
 That vile *wanchancie* thing, a rape.

*Burns: Poor Mailie's Elegy.*

**Wandle**, pliant, nimble.

**Wandought**, impotence, a silly weak person, wanting strength, or doughtiness.

**Wandoughty**, impotent.

**Wandream,** } the nightmare.  
**Wandreme,** }

**Wandreth**, poverty, sorrow.

The sixth virtue is strength or stalworthiness, not only of body but of heart, to suffer the weal and the woe, wealth or *wandreth*, whichever betide.—*MS. Lincoln* (quoted by Mr. Halliwell, *the orthography modernisea*).

Wang, the cheek, from the German. In Leicestershire, says Mr. Halliwell, '*wang*' means a blow on the cheek.

Wanhope, the waning and disappearance of hope preparatory to despair. This word seems to have been derived from the Dutch and Flemish, and not from the Anglo-Saxon. The Dutch word for despair is *wanhoop*, or the waning of hope.

Chaucer uses both despair and *wanhope* in the same sentence in the 'Knight's Tale,' as if the words were not synonymous :

That I am exiled and barreine,  
Of all grace, and in so great *despaire* ;

\* \* \* \* \*

Will ought I sterve in *wanhope* and distresse ;  
Farewell my life, my lust, and my gladnesse.

Chaucer.

Good men I warne alle,  
That ye in no *wanhope* falle.

MS. Cantab., quoted by Halliwell.

Good hope that helpe should,  
To *wanhope* turneth.

Piers Ploughman.

Furie and rage, *wanhope*, despair, and woe.

Lodge: *Glaucis and Lilla*.

*Wanhope* poor soul on broken anchor sits,  
Wringing his arms as wanting of his wits.—*Idem*.

This word, and several others equally beautiful, have survived in Scotland, and in the Border counties of England. 'It was in use,' says Dean Trench, in his 'Lectures on English Past and Present,' 'down to the reign of Elizabeth ; and was the latest survivor of a whole family or group of words, which continued much longer in Scotland than with us.'

Wanhap, }  
Wanluck, } mischance, misfortune.

Wank, preterite of wink.

Our king on the shepherd *wank*  
Privily with his eye.

MS. Cantab., Halliwell.

Wanlust, indifference, satiety ; the waning away of lust, list, or pleasure.



Wanlusty, indifferently.

Wanrestful, restless, wanting rest.

And may they never learn the gaets,  
Of ither vile *wanrestfu* pets.

*Burns: The Death and Dying Words of Poor Mailie.*

Wanthrift, prodigality.

Wantrust, jealousy, suspicion; *waning* or dwindling of trust and belief.

Oh, *wantrust*, full of false suspicion!  
Where was thy wit and thy discretion?

*Chaucer: The Manciple's Tale.*

Wantrustful, } jealous, suspicious.  
Wantrusty, }

Wap, } a blow; also to strike, or beat. Johnson defines  
Wappen, } 'whap' to be a blow, and calls it 'a low expression.'  
Whap, } Doubtless it has long been left to schoolboys and to  
Whop, } illiterate people, but it is nevertheless of respectable parentage, and from the same root as *weapon*, that with which a blow is struck, the German *wappen*, arms; and the old English and Scottish *weaponshaw* and *wappinshaw*, a tournament or exhibition of arms. In Scottish poetry, '*wap*' sometimes means to throw. Chaucer has '*waped*,' in the sense of astonished; and Spenser *whape*, in the sense of to shock, or deject. Shakespeare, in '*Timon of Athens*,' speaking of the power of gold, says:

This it is  
That makes the *wappened* widow wed again.

Much controversy has arisen about the meaning of this word. Nares imagines it to signify 'worn or weakened,' but it is more probable that it is derived from to *whap*, to beat; and that the passage means, a widow *beaten* by sorrow, 'bruised and buffeted by the storms of fate.'

The intensitive or augmentative of this word, with the prefix *a*, and defined by Mr. Wright, in his '*Provincial Dictionary*,' as meaning to confound, to stupefy with fear, occurs in Spenser:

Wap—*continued.*

A wild and salvage man ;  
Yet was no man, but only like in shape,  
And eke in stature higher by a span,  
All over-grown with hair that could *awhape*  
An hardy heart.

*Spenser: Faerie Queene.*

War-gear, accoutrements of war.

Warp, preterite of *werp*, to throw ; whence wharf, a place where goods are thrown, and moudie-warp, a mole, the *mould thrower*.

And *warp* off his weeds ; i.e., cast off his clothes.

*Morte Arthur.*

Warth, } the sea-shore ; also, a ford over a river. 'Wath' ap-  
Wath, } pears to be derived from the Gaelic *ath*, a ford.

Warthstead, } the fording-place ; often erroneously written and  
Wathstead, } pronounced *warstead*.

Wasterne, }  
Wasteyn, } a desert, a waste place.

Walked in that *wasterne*.—*Morte Arthur*.

In a *wasteyne* far fro' the towne.—*MS. Harl. (Halliwell)*.

Wastrel, one who wastes his means ; an extravagant or profligate person ; any waste or imperfect article in manufacture.

Wasty, consumptive, wasting away.

Wat, preterite of wet.

O sighing, said the lady fair,  
I've *wat* my gowden girdle.

*The Water o' Wearie's Well.*

And when of me his leave he took,  
The tears they *wat* mine ee.

*Gilderoy.*

Laith, laith, were the good Scots' lords  
To wet their cork heeled shoon,  
But long ere all the play was played,  
They *wat* thair hats aboon.

*Sir Patrick Spens.*

Watershed, the inclination and flow of the water from the higher to the lower level.

**Waterstead**, the ordinary channel or bed of a river, or smaller stream.

**Wathe**, injury, severity.

Woe and *wathe* between them wake.

*Wright's Provincial Glossary.*

**Wathely**, severely.

**Waight**, a deep draught of liquor. In most of the glossaries to Burns's poems this word is erroneously joined with 'willy,' and converted into 'willy-waight,' and described as meaning 'a hearty draught.' The line in 'Auld Lang Syne' usually printed,

We'll drink a right gude willy-waight,

should be :

We'll drink a right gude-willie waight ;

i.e., we'll drink with right good-will a deep or hearty waight or draught.

'Willie, did you ever see the beasts drink more than was sufficient to satisfy the cravings of nature?' 'No, Doctor ; I didna ! but d'ye think, if a poor beast could speak, and said to a comrade on the other side o' the water, "Here's to ye, lad !" he wadna tak anither waight ?'

*Laird of Logan.*

**Waur**, to get the better of, to conquer.

Ane Hornbook's ta'en up the trade,

An' faith he'll waur me.

*Burns : Death and Dr. Hornbook.*

Up and waur them a', Willie.—*Jacobite Ballad.*

**Wax**, } to grow, to increase. This word, chiefly preserved  
**Wox**, } in the English language by its frequent use in the  
**Waxed**, } Old and New Testaments, lost its original preterite  
**Woxen**, } and past participle, *wox* and *woxen*, before the translation of the Bible in the reign of James I., at which  
**Woxed**, } time the word *wax*, with the regular inflections, was in common use.

And when he *woxen* was more  
 In his mother's absence.

*Piers Ploughman.*

**Wax**—*continued.*

This man *wax* wellnigh wood [mad] for ire.

*Chaucer: The Sompnoure's Tale.*

Before my breath, like blazing flax,  
Man and his marvels pass away,  
And changing empires wane and *wax*,  
Are founded, flourish, and decay.

*Sir Walter Scott.*

Now they *wax*, and now they dwindle.

*Sir Walter Scott's Song of Meg Merrilees.*

**Weald**, from the German *wald*, a forest.

**Wean**, a little child ; a *weanie*, a very little child—from *wee* *ane*, little one.

**Wedbreach**, adultery.

**Wedbreaker**, an adulterer.—*Wicliffe's Bible.*

**Wedfellow**, a spouse ; applied either to husband or wife.

**Wee**, little, diminutive. The word *wee*, as used by the Scotch, implies extreme littleness, and is always employed to express some degree of affection ; little dog, and *wee* dog, do not convey the same precise idea.

Shakespeare, in 'The Merry Wives of Windsor,' makes Simple say of Dr. Caius :

He hath but a little *wee* face, and a little yellow beard ;

thereby implying that the face was something else than little, that it was *wee* ; i.e., very little.

A *wee* spark makes meikle wark.

A *wee* mouse can creep under a great corn stack.

*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

As a diminutive, the word is commonly used in the best colloquial English, 'my little *wee* daughter,' a 'bonnie *wee* book,' &c. The following verses are current on both sides of the Tweed :

A *wee* house well filled,  
A *wee* farm well tilled,  
A *wee* wife well willed,  
Make a happy man.

**Weed**, dress, raiment. This word in the singular, has disappeared from literature as well as from ordinary speech, and is only used in the plural to express the garb and head-dress of a widow. In ancient poetry it occurs frequently, both in the singular and in the plural.

Shining Pallas, all in warlike *weed*.

*Earl of Surrey: Translation of the Æneid.*

Hast thou given him at his nede,  
Mete and drinke, clothe and *wede*?—*MS. Cotton. (Halliwell).*

The knight was lopen on his steed,  
And armed well in iron *weed*.

*Metrical Romance of the Seven Wise Masters.*

It was a friar of orders grey,  
Went forth to tell his beades,  
And he met with a lady faire,  
Clad in a pilgrim's *weeds*.

*The Friar of Orders Grey, in Percy's Relics.*

Let fair humanity abhor the deed,  
That spots and stains love's modest snow white *weed*.

*Shakespeare: Rape of Lucrece.*

Such *weeds* as may beseem,  
Some well appointed page.

*Shakespeare: Two Gentlemen of Verona.*

Throngs of knights, and barons bold,  
In *weeds* of peace.—*Milton: L' Allegro.*

Take off, take off, these bridal *weeds*,  
And crown my waeiful head wi' willow.

*The Braes of Yarrow.*

Princely in my lover's *weed*,  
Bonnie laddie, highland laddie.

*Jacobite Ballad, 1745.*

Those whom chance may hither lead,  
Be thou clad in russet *weed*,  
Be thou deck'd in silken stole,  
Grave these maxims on thy soul.

*Lines written in Friar's Carse Hermitage on the Banks of the Nith, by Burns.*

**Ween**, to think, to imagine; a word not quite obsolete, but seldom used except in poetic composition, and in mock heroics.

**Weft**, a waif; something lost, gone astray, or abandoned.

The gentle lady loose at random left,  
The greenwood long did walk and wander wide,  
At wild adventure, like a forlorne *weft*.

*Spenser: Faerie Queene.*

For we, the *wefts* and pilgrims of the streams,  
Are only born to sorrow and distress.

*Fanshawe's Luciad.*

**Weird** or **wierd**. Most English dictionaries misdefine this word, which has two different significations; one as a noun, the other as an adjective. In English literature, from Shakespeare's time downwards, it exists as an adjective only, and is held to mean unearthly, ghastly, or witchlike. Before Shakespeare's time, and in Scottish poetry and parlance to the present day, the word is a noun, and signifies 'fate' or 'destiny'—derived from the Teutonic *werden*, to become, or that which *shall* be. Chaucer, in 'Troilus and Cressida,' has the line:

O Fortune! executrice of *wierdes*!

and Gower, in a manuscript in the possession of the Society of Antiquaries, says:

It were a wondrous *wierde*,  
To see a king become a herde.

In this sense the word continues to be used in Scotland:

A man may woo where he will, but he maun wed where his *wierd* is.

She is a wise wife that kens her ain *wierd*.

*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

The *wierd* her dearest bairn befel  
By the bonnie mill-dams o' Binnorie.

*Scott: Minstrelsy of the Border.*

Shakespeare seems to have been the first to employ the word as an adjective, and to have given it the meaning of unearthly, though pertaining to the idea of the Fates:

The *wierd* sisters, hand in hand,  
Posters of the sea and land.—*Macbeth*.

Thane of Cawdor! by which title these *wierd* sisters saluted me.

*Idem.*

When we sat by her flickering fire at night she was most *wierd*.

*Charles Dickens: Great Expectations.*

**Weird**—*continued*.

No spot more fit than *wierd*, lawless Winchelsea, for a plot such as he had conceived.—*All the Year Round*, April 2, 1870.

Jasper surveyed his companion as though he were getting imbued with a romantic interest in his *wierd* life.

*Charles Dickens: The Mystery of Edwin Drood.*

She turned to make her way from the *wierd* spot as fast as her feeble limbs would let (permit) her.

*T. A. Trollope: The Dream Numbers*, ii. 271.

**Weise,** }  
**Wysse,** } to direct, to train, to conduct.

Lord King, she said, of Heaven's blys,  
This day thou me rede and *wysse*—*MS. Cantab. (Halliwell)*.

Every miller would *weise* the water to his ain mill.

*Scottish Proverb.*

**Weld,** }  
**Welden,** } to hold, to possess, to wield, to rule, to govern.

And he no money *weldeth*.—*Piers Ploughman*.

He had no heir his landes to *weld*.

*MS. Cantab. (Wright's Provincial Glossary)*.

**Welder**, a ruler, a governor.

**All-welder**, the Almighty Ruler.

I pray to God, *all-weldand*.

*Ywaine and Gawin (Wright's Provincial Glossary)*.

**Welful**, productive of happiness.

Unto the cross of Christe thus said she,  
O dere ! O *wealful* ! \* \* \* holy cross !

*Chaucer: The Man of Lawe's Tale.*

**Welfulness**, health, happiness, prosperity.

**Welkin**, the sky ; from the German *wölken*, the clouds.

Amaze the *welkin* with your broken staves.—*Shakespeare*.

**Well-will**, benevolence.

**Welwilly**, benevolent.

**Well-willer**, a benevolent person.

**Well-willing**, benevolent.

They came in a loving and *well-willing* manner to enquire.

*Melville, MS. (Jamieson)*.

Ill-will, malevolence.

Ill-willer, a malevolent person.

Ill-willy, malevolent.

Of this group of words, ill-will is the only one that has remained in current use, or that has been admitted into literature. The rest have perished without offence, to make room for Latin synonyms, that are neither as beautiful nor as expressive.

Venus, I mean, the *welwilly* planete.

*Chaucer: Troilus and Cressida.*

To themselves, *well-willers*.—*Hooker*.

The calves and kye met in the loan,

The man ran with ane rung to red,

Then there comes ane *ill-willy* cow.

*The wife of Auchtermuchty, from the Hyndford MS., Lord Hailes's Edition, quoted in Ritson's Caledonian Muse.*

Welly, nearly, or very nearly.

Our Joseph's *welly* blind, poor lad.

*Waugh's Lancashire Songs.*

Tummus, I *welly* lost my mind.—*Tim Bobbin*, 1803.

Went, to dwindle, pine, fade away.

Wint, preterite of went, to fade.

It *wint*, and went away anon.

*MS. Digby, Wright's Provincial Glossary.*

Wern, to refuse, to deny.

That is mete when men hym *werneth*,

And he no money weldeth.—*Piers Ploughman*.

Werp, to throw, to cast.

Wersh, } insipid, unsavoury, tasteless.  
Werish, }

Her pleasures *werish*, and her amours tasteless.

*Translation of Montaigne, 1613.*

*Weryshe* as meat is that is not well tasted.—*Palsgrave*.

Helicon's *wersh* well.—*Allan Ramsay*.

A kiss and a drink of water, are but a *wersh* breakfast.

*Scottish Proverb.*



**Wersh**—*continued*.

In Brockett's 'Glossary of North Country Words,' (1825,) this word appears in the corrupted form of *welsh*. Broth and pottage without salt, are said to be *welsh*; but *wersh* is evidently the proper spelling.

**Weth,** } soft, mild. Mr. Halliwell says this word is used in  
**Weeth,** } the Isle of Wight; and Mr. Barnes quotes it in the  
 sense of pliant, in his 'Roots and Stems of the English as a  
 Teutonic tongue.'

**Wevin,** a moment; from the Anglo-Saxon *wiffend*, a breathing; whence also a *whiff* or breath.

**Whang,** a large cut or slice; whence *whanger*, one who takes a large cut, slice, or piece; and whence again, the American phrase, a *slang whanger*, a very vulgar, violent person, using slang words in excess.

Ye cut large *whangs* out of other folk's leather.

*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

He's ta'en four-and-twenty broad arrows,  
 And laced them in a *whang*.

*Sweet Willie and Lady Margaret.*

**Whaup**, a curlew.

The wild land fowls are plovers, pigeons, curlews, commonly called *whaups*.—*Statistical Account of Scotland*; article, *Orkney*.

**Wheep**, the cheep or low cry of a bird; also metaphorically, the ineffectual attempt of a man to whistle loudly.

A Scottish gentleman, who visited England for the first time, and ardently desired to return home to his native hills and moors, was asked by his English host to come out into the garden at night to hear the song of the nightingale, a bird unknown in Scotland. His mind was full of home, and he exclaimed, 'Na! na! I wadna gie the *wherple* of a whaup for 2' the nightingales that ever sang.'

*Statistical Account of Scotland.*

**Whelm**, to turn. 'Overwhelm' is still current, but 'whelm' is nearly obsolete.

'Till billows gape and gales blow hard,  
 And *whelm* him o'er.—Burns: *To a Mountain Daisy*.

**Whiffler**, a fifer, or flute-player ; from *whiff*, a breath of wind ; also a trumpeter going foremost in a procession, to prepare the way for a king, or great personage.

Which like a mighty *whiffler* 'fore the king,  
Seems to prepare his way.—*Shakespeare : Henry V.*

But as a poet that's no scholar makes  
Vulgarity his *whiffler*, and so takes  
Passage with ease and state.—*Chapman's Homer.*

**Whiles**, sometimes. This word survives in Scottish speech and literature ; but has disappeared from English. *Shakespeare* uses it in the sense of while, and until.

**Whingle**, to complain.

What, thou 'rt in love, and *whinglin* ?—*Cumberland Ballads.*

**Whirr**, to fly from the ground in affright, and with a loud noise ; like a partridge or pheasant.

The moorcock springs on *whirring* wings,  
Among the blooming heather.—*Burns.*

**Whish**, } silence, or to keep silence ; whence the name of the  
**Whist**, } well-known game at cards.

The other nipt so nigh,  
That *whist* I could not.—*Sackville : Mirror for Magistrates.*

They *whited* all with fixed face attent.

*Surrey's Translation of the Æneid.*

The winds with wonder *whist*,  
Smoothly the waters kiss'd.—*Milton.*

Haud your *whish*, (i.e., keep silence, or hold your tongue.)

*Scott : Rob Roy.*

**Wishness**, }  
**Wistness**, } silence.

**Whittle**, a pocket or sheath-knife.

For their knives, care not,  
While ye have throats to answer ; for myself,  
There's not a *whittle* in the unruly camp,  
But I do prize it at my love, before  
The reverend'st throat in Athens.

*Shakespeare : Timon of Athen*

Never want a good *whittle* at your belt.

*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

**Whittle**—*continued*.

'The word, as well as the practice of *whittling* (cutting a stick for amusement),' says Bartlett, in his 'Dictionary of Americanisms,' 'is so much more common with us, especially in New England, than it is in the old country, that its use may not improperly be regarded as an Americanism.'

Americans must and will *whittle*.

*N. P. Willis.*

No matter where his home may be,

What flag may be unfurled,

He'll manage by some 'cute devise

To *whittle* through the world.

*Idem.*

**Whitster**, a laundress ; a bleacher or washer of linen, a person who makes wearing apparel *white*, a *blanchisseuse*.

Carry it among the *whitsters* in Datchet Mead, and there empty it in the muddy ditch close by the Thames' side.

*Shakespeare: Merry Wives of Windsor.*

**Whomme**, to turn over clumsily and suddenly.

Coming to the fire, with the said pan and water therein, and casting the water thereupon, and *whommeling* the pan upon the fire with the pronouncing of these fearful words—'Bones to the fire, and soul to the devil!' which accomplished the cure.

*Trial of Alison Nisbet for Witchcraft, 1632.*

**Whuffle**, to doubt.

**Whuffler**, a doubter ; from the German *zweifeln* and *zweifler*.

In some parliamentary boroughs in the North of England, a *whuffler* is one who will not promise his vote, because he expects a bribe, if he will only remain in doubt until a few minutes before the close of the poll.

**Wicker**, a twig. This word, as a noun, has lost, except in the North of England and Scotland, its original meaning of twig, but survives as an adjective, in *wicker-work*, and *wicker-basket*.

As with the wind, waves the *wicker*,

So waves this world's vanitie.

*Bannatyne's Poems.*

Waving like the willow-*wicker*.

*Burns.*

Widder, }  
Wither, } contrary.

Widder-guess, }  
Wither-guess, } a guess in the wrong direction.

Widdershins, }  
Withershins, } in a direction contrary to the course of the  
sun. 'To pass the bottle *withershins*;' i.e.,  
in the wrong direction.

The said Alison past thrice *withershins* about the bed, muttering out  
certain charms in unknown words.

*Trial of Alison Nisbet for Witchcraft, 1632.*

Widderly, }  
Witherly, } contrary.

Widderwin, }  
Witherwin, } an enemy.

Wight, brave, a brave man.

Wightly, bravely.

It would have been strange, if the Anglo-Saxons had not had a word in their language to express bravery and courage, without going to the Norman-French for it. Brave is a word of comparatively recent introduction. The ancient word *wight*, now used in literature as a substantive, is still current as an adjective in the North of England and in Scotland.

'A *wight* man never wanted a weapon,' says the Scottish proverb. 'He is as *wight*,' says another, 'as a weaver's doublet that every day takes a thief by the neck.'

The word occurs in the 'Metrical Romance of Merlin,' where the young Arthur is described as

Curteus, faire, and gent,  
And *wight*, and hardy, verament.

In the same poem the word is applied to war-horses going into battle :

The stedes so noble and so *wight*,  
Lopen and neighed.

**Wight**—*continued*.

The 'Wallace Wight,' is a title of nobility given by the people of Scotland to their favourite hero. But in England the adjective has become quite obsolete, and the substantive is only used in mock heroics.

**Wilding**, a wild flower or fruit.

**Wilt**, to wither and shrivel up. This word, common in Lincolnshire and in Kent, has been carried by English emigrants to the United States, where it has taken root and flourished to such an extent as almost to have superseded its synonyme wither. Neither Johnson nor Richardson admits it to the honours of the language, but Webster, who denies that it is synonymous with wither, declares it to be a legitimate word, for which there is no substitute in the language, and defines it to mean, 'to begin to wither, to lose freshness, and become flaccid as a plant when exposed to great heat in a dry day.' 'A *wilted* plant,' he says, 'often revives and becomes fresh; not so a *withered* plant.' He quotes as an instance of its use a sentence from Dwight's 'Theology':

Despots have *wilted* the human race into sloth and imbecility.

In Bartlett's 'Dictionary of Americanisms,' it is said, that to *wilt down*, means to look sheepish; and the author quotes Robb's 'Squatter Life':

Some cotton fellow bid sixty dollars for the slave; and she *wilted* right down.

In Sternberg's 'Northamptonshire Glossary,' *wilt* or *wilter*, is defined as meaning to wither or dry up. The corrupt form of the preterite, used in the same county, is *wilkt*.

**Wimble**, to shift to and fro.

**Wimple**, to wind or meander like a brook or river; to hang in folds, like a drooping flag or pendant.

When *wimpling* waters make their way.

*Allan Ramsay.*

Whiles owre a linn the burnie plays,

As through the glen it *wimpl't*.

*Burns: Halloween.*

Wimple—*continued.*

Ye hazel shaws, and briery dens,  
Ye burnies *wimpling* down the glens.

*Burns: On Captain Matthew Henderson.*

Wimple, a veil.

And as she ran her *wimple* let she fall,  
And took more hede.

*Chaucer: Legend of Thisbe of Babylon.*

Windle, to turn in the wind, like a leaf; or to drift before the wind like snow, sleet, or rain.

Windling, a branch blown down by the wind.

He starts at straws, and lets the *windlings* go.

*Northern Proverb.*

Winly, pleasantly, winsomely.—*Halliwell.*

Winsel, an unexpected profit, winning, or turn of luck; a term of endearment to a bride, or a child; implying something that is won and highly thought of.

Wishworthy, desirable.

Wis, to know.

Wist, known.

I *wis* your grandam had a worser match.

*Shakespeare.*

But had I *wist* before I kissed,  
That love had been so ill to win.

*Lady Anne Bothwell's Lament.*

Wit, knowledge; whence mother*wit*, natural or common sense.

Witch-thimble, the popular name in the North for the fox-glove, or *digitalis purpurea*. This word helps to prove that fox-glove, as has been supposed, is a corruption or perversion of *folk's-glove*; i.e., the glove of the fairies, popularly called the 'folk.'

Witcraft, logic, argumentation.

Within-forth, in doors, at home.—(*Wicliffe's Bible*). *Scotticè ben*, or be in.

Without-forth, out of doors, not at home. *Scotticè but*, or be out.

Withy, a tree of which the branches and twigs can be made easily into *withes*; a willow, a sallow.

Witnessfully, evidently; that which can be fully proved by many witnesses.

Wittal, } from 'wit all,' or know all; the husband of an un-  
Wittol, } faithful wife, who knows all his wife's shame, and his own dishonour.

Cuckold! *wittol* cuckold!  
The devil himself hath not such a name!

*Shakespeare: Merry Wives of Windsor.*

Witterly, consciously, truly.

No man, as I leeve,  
Should ever wit *witterly*,  
What day was to mean.

*Piers Ploughman.*

Wive, to marry. This word is not quite obsolete; 'Wive and thrive,' is a common colloquialism.

Her whom the first man did *wive*.

*Donne's Satires.*

Wode, }  
Wood, } mad, furious, wild, from the German *wuth*.  
Wud, }

The old Saxon English, as preserved in the Lowlands of Scotland, and the English Border counties, was particularly rich in words expressive of the various shades and degrees of madness and lunacy. Wowf, wud, daft, gyte, and doited, still remain in Scottish parlance, while the English retains mad, silly, crazy, cracked, moonstruck.

Well loved he garlick, onions, and lekes,  
And for to drink, strong wine as red as blood,  
Then would he speke, and cry as he were *wode*,  
And when that he had drunken wel the wine,  
Then would he speken no word but Latine.

*Chaucer: Prologue to the Canterbury Tales.*

On Monday next at quarter night,  
Shall fall a rain, and that so wild and *wud*,  
That half so great was never Noe's flood.

*Chaucer: The Miller's Tale.*

Wode—*continued.*

And here am I and *wode* within this wood.

*Shakespeare: Midsummer Night's Dream.*

Life poisoning pestilence and frenzies *wud*,  
The marrow-eating sickness, whose attain  
Disorder breeds by heating of the blood.

*Shakespeare: Venus and Adonis.*

Ance *wode*, aye waur.

*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

Oppression will drive a wise man *wode*.

*Northern Proverb.*

When neighbours anger at a plea,  
And just as *wud* as *wud* can be,  
How easy can the barley bree  
Cement the quarrel!  
It's aye the cheapest lawyer's fee,  
To taste the barrel.

*Burns: Scotch Drink.*

We shall be married on Monday,  
And will not that be good?  
What, shall we be married no sooner?  
Why sure the man's gone *woode*.

*Nursery Rhymes of England, by J. O. Halliwell.*

Wode, to grow mad.

He stareth and *wodeth*.

*Chaucer: The Second Nonne's Tale.*

Wodeness, }  
Woodness, } madness.

*Wodenes* laughing in his rage.

*Chaucer.*

Wofare, sorrow; the opposite of welfare.

Wold, an open country, whether hill or plain, without wood.

St. Withold footed thrice the *wold*,

He met the night mare and her nine foals.—[In some editions,  
'and her nine-fold.']

*Shakespeare: King Lear.*

Won, } to dwell, inhabit; whence the modern word 'wont,'  
Wone, } 'a person's *wont*, usage, or habit;' from the German  
Wonen, } *wohnen*.



Won—continued.

Antony and Egidie,  
And other holy fadres,  
*Woned* in wilderness,  
Among wild beastes.—*Piers Ploughman*.

Merrie it is in time of June.

\* \* \* \* \*  
Violet and rose flower,  
*Wonnet* then in maiden's bower,  
The sun is hot, the day is long.

*Metrical Romance of Merlin.*

A sturdy pas down to the court he goth,  
Whereas there *won'd* a man of great honour,  
To whom that he was always confessor.

*Chaucer: The Sompnoure's Tale.*

Not far away, quoth he, he hence doth *wonne*.

*Spenser: Faerie Queene.*

A people near the northern pole that *wonne*.—*Fairfax: Tasso.*

There's auld Rob Morris that *wons* in yon glen,  
The king of good fellows.—*Burns.*

Woning, a dwelling.

Tell me, sir, what is thy name, and where thy *woning* is.

*MS. Cantab. (Halliwell).*

Wontless, without wont, unaccustomed.

What *wontless* courage dost thou still inspire.

*Spenser: Faerie Queene.*

Wood-ward, a forester, warder, or keeper of a wood.

Woodweel, the woodpecker.

Woolsted, corrupted into the modern word *worsted*, made of wool.

Wordfast, true to one's word. An excellent form of speech, packing in the shortest compass, the proverb that, 'his word is as good as his bond.'

Wordridden, to be a slave to words without understanding their meaning; to be overawed by a word rather than an argument; like the fishwife of the story, who allowed Daniel O'Connell to call her a thief, a liar, and a prostitute, but who would not submit to be called a 'parallelogram.'

An illiterate but enterprising man, started a daily news-

**Wordridden**—*continued*.

paper in London. It was not successful at first; few such enterprises are. He speedily lost courage, cursed the public, himself, and his editor. Desirous of fixing a quarrel on the latter, and having no real cause, he suddenly pounced upon the word *bureaucracy*, which appeared very frequently in the leading articles. He made notes of the times in which the word was used; and found it in no less than eleven instances in one week. Walking up to the editor's room in a towering passion he pointed out the peccant word. 'Bureaucracy, sir, bureaucracy, that is the word which has ruined the paper. That word is the death of it. I shall carry it on no longer. The thing shall stop next Saturday.' And the proprietor was as good—or bad—as his threat, and the paper came to an ignominious end, after an existence of a few weeks.

**Word-wanton**, obscene in speech.

**Word-wantonly**, obscenely.

**Word-wantonness**, obscenity of conversation.

**Worksome**, active, laborious, industrious.

**Worksoneness**, activity, laboriousness.

**Worm**, a serpent.

With the grace of God Almighty,  
With the *worm* yet shall I fight.—*Halliwell*.

The venom'd *worm*  
Had belched his poison out.—*Turberville*, 1587.

**Worrysome**, exasperating, irritating, troublesome, annoying.

**Worsen**, to grow worse, to make worse.

**Wort**, a root or herb; from the German *wurz*.

**Wortle**, a little root.

These two words have almost disappeared from the language, except in combination. Mr. Halliwell defines 'wort' as meaning a vegetable or a cabbage; but the signification is wider, as may be seen from the following list of herbs and flowers, in popular speech, a list that might be greatly extended.

Wort—*continued.*

- Adder-*wort*, the snake weed.  
 Bairn-*wort*, the children's flower, the daisy.  
 Ban-*wort*, the wood violet.  
 Bane-*wort*, the deadly nightshade.  
 Bell-*wort*, the convolvulus.  
 Birth-*wort*.  
 Bishop's-*wort*, or St. Catherine's flower.  
 Blae-*wort*, the blue corn-flower.  
 Blood-*wort*, the wall-flower, sometimes called the bleeding heart.  
 Bride-*wort*, the meadow-sweet.  
 Brose-*wort*, hyoscyamus or henbane.  
 Brother-*wort*, penny royal.  
 Culver-*wort*, the columbine.  
 Drunk-*wort*, an old name for tobacco.  
 Ers-*wort*, the mouse ear.  
 Felon-*wort*, the woody nightshade.  
 Field-*wort*, gentian.  
 Laser-*wort*, from whence assafoetida is extracted for medicinal purposes.  
 Lithe-*wort*, the forget-me-not.  
 Liver-*wort*.  
 Lubber-*wort*, any root of which the decoction makes a person idle or stupid, applied metaphorically to 'barley' and 'malt.'  
 Moon-*wort*, lunary.  
 Nail-*wort*, or whitlow grass, so called from its supposed efficacy in the cure of whitlows.  
 Palsy-*wort*, the cowslip or paigle.  
 Pile-*wort*, cud weed.  
 Rag-*wort*.  
 St. John's-*wort*.  
 Short-*wort*.  
 Smere-*wort*.  
 Sneeze-*wort*, or goose tongue.  
 Spleen-*wort*.  
 Starch-*wort*.  
 Youth-*wort*, the plant *ros solis*.

**Would.** This word in certain cases where its use is essential to grammatical correctness, threatens to be superseded by a clumsy colloquialism ; as in the following extracts.

If a son is really capable of managing his own affairs, *his father had* best let him do so.—*Times*, May 8, 1861. *I.e.*, If a son is really capable of managing his own affairs, it would be better if his father *would* let him do so.

People in the responsible position of ministers *had* better *take* time.—*Times*, May 13, 1861. *I.e.*, It *would* be better for people in the responsible position of ministers to take time.

Interesting as is the subject—eloquent as are the speakers, we *had* (*would*) much rather hear them descant upon some other theme.—*Times*, May 13, 1861.

A gentleman of such delicate sensibilities (as Mr. Walpole), *had* better not *have* trusted himself to a personal interview with Mr. Beales.—*Saturday Review*, July 28, 1866 ; *on the Hyde Park Riots*. *I.e.*, It *would* have been better, if a gentleman of such delicate susceptibilities *had* not trusted himself, &c.

The man who touches them *had* better *have* put his head into a hornet's nest.—*Hereward the Wake*, by the Rev. Charles Kingsley, vol. i., page 299. *I.e.*, It *would* be better for the man who touches them to put his head into a hornet's nest.

In a review of 'Travels not far from Home,' in the 'Morning Post,' of September 14, 1860, the critic says, 'but the preface *had* better not *have* been written ;' *i.e.*, 'it *would* have been better if the preface had not been written.' Mr. Leigh Hunt, in his 'Old Court Suburb,' vol. ii., page 14, says, 'But the account of it *had* better be given in his own words,' instead of 'it *would* be better if the account were given, &c.' Mr. Thackeray, in 'The Virginians,' vol. i., page 138, says, 'I *had* rather have lost an arm almost,' so obvious a mistake for, 'I *would* rather,' as to suggest a misprint rather than a deliberate inelegancy ; if it were not that in the same work he repeats the error (page 667), and says, 'the affair *had* better be settled,' instead of 'it *would* be better if the affair were settled.' Mr. Carlyle, in his pamphlet on the Negro question, edition 1853, page 39, speaks of 'a doom for Quashee, which I *had* (*would*) rather not contemplate.'

**Wouth**, wrong, harm, madness ; sometimes written, *wothe* and *wuth*. (See *wode*.)

Wowf, partially deranged. 'Having a bee in one's bonnet.'

It is very odd, Lord Allan, who between ourselves, is a little *wowf*, seems at times to have more sense than all of us put together.

*Sir Walter Scott: Tales of my Landlord.*

Wraith, an apparition in his own likeness that becomes visible to a person about to die, a water-spirit.

He held him for some fleeting *wraith*,  
And not a man of blood or breath.

*Sir Walter Scott.*

By this the storm grew loud apace,  
The *water-wraith* was shrieking,  
And in the scowl of heaven each face  
Grew dark as they were speaking.

*Thomas Campbell.*

Wrathe, to incense, to anger, to make wrathful.—(*Halliwell.*)

Wraw, peevish.

Wrawl, to quarrel, to dispute, to wrangle.

Wreak, }  
Wroke, } vengeance, to avenge.

In our time, the substantive *wreak* has wholly dropped out of use; and the verb is never employed without a substantive, originally implied in the meaning; as to *wreak* displeasure, wrath, or vengeance. In Anglo-Saxon, *wreaker* signified an avenger. In the Shakespearian era of our literature, and in the ancient romances, both substantive and verb were used as single words. Thus:

His soul to hell so mote it wend !  
Hounds gnaw him to the bone !  
So *wreak* us, God, of all our foes.

*Metrical Romance of Sir Bevis of Hampton.*

Till I be *wroken* of Saladyne,  
Certes my joy shall I tyne !

*Metrical Romance of Richard Cœur de Lion.*

Then if thou hast,  
A heart of *wreak* in thee, that will revenge  
Thine own particular wrongs.

*Shakespeare: Coriolanus, act iv. s. 5.*

Wroken, avenged.

'Tis not my fault, the boar provoked my tongue,  
Be *wreaked* on him.

*Shakespeare: Venus and Adonis.*

Lend me your helping hand,  
To *wreak* the parricide.

*Beaumont and Fletcher.*

Come, *wreak* his loss, whom bootless ye deplore.  
*Fairfax.*

And soon in the Gordon's foul heart's blood,  
He's *wroken* his dear ladye!

*Border Ballad of Edom o' Gordon.*

To have *wroken* himself of such wrongs as were done and offered to him by the French king.—*Holinshed.*

Wrench, } a stratagem.  
Wrenck, }

Old men are fell and quent,  
And wicked *wrenches* can attent.

*Metrical Romance of the Seven Wise Masters.*

For all her *wrench*,  
The more love she might not win.—*Idem.*

This was one of woman's *wrenches*.—*Idem.*

For it leaves a man with *wrencks* and wyles,  
And at the last it him beguiles.

*Halliwell.*

Wright, an artificer or artizan. In Scotland and the North of England, 'wright' means a carpenter, and stone-*wright*, a mason. In English, as admitted into the Dictionaries, the word is only retained in combination, as in Shipwright and Millwright. The words 'Cartwright,' and 'Wheelwright,' exist as surnames; but are still used by the peasantry for cartmaker, and wheelmaker.

Wrine, a deep line in the face, a furrow; whence the diminutive *wrinkle*, a small wrine.

Writh, the stalk of a plant.—*Wright's Provincial Glossary.*

Wrox, to begin to decay.

Wry, to twist, to turn ; whence the modern words, awry, wry-mouth, and wry-neck.

Seeing plainly  
That Fortune doth *wry*,  
All contrary,  
From mine intent.

*Ellis's Ancient Songs and Ballads, 1483.*

Wush, preterite of wash.

He *wush* his face and kamed his hair.

*The Dowie Dens o' Yarrow.*

Wyte, } to blame ; an ancient English word anterior to the  
Wite, } time when '*blame*' was introduced into the language  
from the Norman-French.

And but, I do, sirs, let me have the *wite*.

*Chaucer : The Chanones Yeman's Tale.*

And though that I be jealous, *wite* me not !

*Chaucer : The Marchant's Tale.*

And therefore if that I mis-speak or say,  
*Wite* it (the ale of Southwark), I you pray.

*The Miller's Prologue.*

Fortune,  
Thy false wheel, all my woe, I well may *wite*.

*The Miller's Tale.*

Ane does the skaith, and another gets the *wyte*.

Deem warily, ye know not who *wytes* yoursel'.

Many *wyte* their wives,  
For their own thriftless lives.

Ye need not *wyte* your teeth because your tail is small.

*Allan Ramsay's Scottish Proverbs.*

Alas ! that e'er my muse has reason  
To *wyte* my countrymen wi' treason.

*Burns : Scotch Drink.*

Yack, a smart blow. 'A yack i' th' ear,' a box on the ears.  
'A yack on the head.'

Yal, preterite of *yell*, to cry out like a man in rage ; or like a wild beast.

Yald, vigorous, lively, alert.

Being *yald* and stout, he wheel'd about,  
And clove his head in twain.

*Hogg's Mountain Bard.*

Yalloch, a shout, a yell ; a wild halloo.—*Jamieson.*

Yammer, *v.*, to yearn or desire ; to hunger.

And the little things *yammering* round.

*Lancashire Songs, by Edwin Waugh.*

I *yammer* to hear how things turned eawt.

*Tim Bobbin.*

And the worm *yammers* for us i' th' ground.

*Waugh's Lancashire Songs.*

Yammerly, piteously.—*Gawayne.*

Yamph, to bark, like a small dog.

Yanks, leggings, or leather gaiters.

Yap, }  
Yaup, } hungry ; having an eager desire for anything.  
Yappy, }

As glad, as gay, as young, as *yap* as ye.  
(*Jameson*).

Right *yap* she yoked to the ready feast.  
*Ross's Helenore.*

'Come away, Mr. Dunshunner,' said the Provost: 'I hope ye are  
*yaup*, for ye have a lang day's work before ye.'  
*W. E. Aytoun, Blackwood's Magazine.*

Yare, }  
Yary, } brisk, nimble.



**Yarely**, briskly, nimbly.

Be *yare* in thy preparations, for thy assailant is quick, skilful, and deadly.—*Shakespeare: Twelfth Night*.

Speak to the mariners! Fall to't *yarely*, or we see ourselves aground! Bestir! Bestir!—*Shakespeare: Tempest*.

In Cæsar's fleet  
Are those that often have against Pompey fought;  
Their ships are *yare*.

*Shakespeare: Antony and Cleopatra*.

This word is common to all the Northern and Eastern counties, and seems to be the original root of *early*, after *early* had superseded *rathe*. In Lancashire, in 1540, according to a quotation from Palsgrave's '*Acolastus*,' in Halliwell's Dictionary, *early* and *yarely* were synonymous.

**Yarm**, to scream.

The fiend began to cry and *yarm*.

*MS. Lincoln (quoted by Halliwell)*.

**Yarn**, preterite of the Anglo-Saxon *yerne*, to grow, to spin out, to run. The sailor's phrase, a '*yarn*,' or long story, run out to inordinate length, is thus pure English, of an ancient stock.

Till I forget youth,  
And *yarn* into eld.

*Piers Ploughman*.

**Yarrow**, the *achillea millefolium*.

He fumitory gets, and eye-light for the eye,  
The *yarrow*, wherewithal he stops the wound-made gore.

*Drayton: Polyolbion*.

**Yatter**, to talk in a peevish and querulous manner.

**Yaup**, to make a loud noise in talking; also to laugh vulgarly.

**Yaw**, to roll from one side to another.

**Yawney**, a sleepy, stupid person.

**Yea**, signifies positive assent; 'yes' is a weakened and attenuated variety of the same word, signifying acquiescence in a proposition that it is unnecessary to refute.

**Yea**—*continued*.

Ask a country man if two and two are four, and he replies, 'Yea, that they be.' Ask him, Are you in good health? and he says, 'Yes, that I be.'

**Year**, to grow old, to increase in years.

**Year-day**, an anniversary of birth, death, or marriage, or any memorable event in a family or nation.

**Yeather**, a flexible twig, strip of ash, birch, used for binding faggots.

**Yeavy**, moist.

**Ye**, to go, from the German *gehen*.

**Yede**, preterite of *ye*, to go.

So they washed and *yede* to meat,  
The Bishop the grace did say.

*MS. Cantab. (Halliwell).*

**Yeep**, } active, nimble.  
**Yep**, }

Thou art young and *yepe*.

*Piers Ploughman.*

They weren *yep*.

*Arthur and Merlin.*

In alle Egypte is none so *yep*.

*Cursor Mundi (Halliwell).*

**Yeld**, barren ; a *yeld* cow, that yields no milk.

**Yelf**, a hay-fork, a dung-fork.

**Yelm**, a portion of straw, as much as can be carried under the arm ; to lay out straw in convenient sheaves for the thatcher.

**Yeme**, heed, attention.

This was the texte timely,  
I took ful good *yeme*,  
The glose was gloriously written  
With a gilt pin.

*Piers Ploughman*

**Yeme**, to govern.

*Yeme* well thyself.

*Idem.*

**Yeme**—*continued.*

To *yemen*  
Both young and old.

*Piers Ploughman.*

Full faire shall I him feede,  
And *yeme* him with our own childe,  
And clothe them in one weed.

*MS. Lincoln (Halliwell).*

**Yerne**, to grow ; to run ; to spin out ; to extend. (See *Yarn*.)

**Yepely**, } actively, sharply, nimbly.  
**Yeply**, }

And *yepelike* spake  
Pride—

*Piers Ploughman.*

**Yernful**, full of yearning and desire ; melancholy, full of fancies, conceits, and crotchets.

But oh, Musick, as in joyful tunes,  
Thy merry notes I did horror,  
So now lend me thy *yernful* tunes,  
To utter all my sorrow.

*Damon and Pythias (Wright's Provincial Dictionary).*

**Yespen**, } as much of anything as can be taken up in both  
**Yaspen**, } hands joined ; a double handful.

**Yester**, the period of time last past. This word is now only used in combination with 'day,' as *yesterday*. It is a common colloquialism to talk of last night, as *yesterday-night* instead of *yester-night*. The words *yester-morn*, *yester-een*, are still allowed in English poetry, and common in Northern and Scottish parlance. *Yester-month*, *yester-week*, and *yester-minute*, are not incorrect, though scarcely ever employed in modern composition.

In my sleep *yestereen*,  
The figure of Cassandra, prophetess.

*Douglas : Translation of Virgil.*

*Yestreen* I rode this water deep,  
And my gude lord beside me.

*Gipsy Davie, Scottish Minstrelsy.*

Yester—*continued.*

In hope that you would come here *yester'en.*  
*Ben Jonson.*

And shall the wretch, whom *yester-sun* beheld  
Waiting my nod,  
Presume to-day to plead audacious love?  
*Congreve: Mourning Bride.*

I gaed a rueful gate *yestreen.*—*Burns.*

In like sort we have such plentie of fish upon our several coasts,  
that although millions of them be taken in a day, yet on the next, their  
loss will be so supplied with new store, that nothing shall be missing of  
the *yester fang.*—*Holinshead: Description of Scotland.*

**Yeth-hounds**, hounds without heads, supposed to be animated  
by the spirits of children who have died without baptism.  
'These hounds are believed,' says Mr. Halliwell, who quotes  
a superstition current in Devonshire, 'to ramble among the  
woods at night, making wailing noises.'

**Yewen**, formed of the wood of the yew-tree.

With *yewen* bow.—*Spenser.*

**Yex**, to cough, hiccough.

And *yexen* in their mirth.  
*Shakespeare: Midsummer Night's Dream.*

His prayer a rhapsody of holy hiccoughs, sanctified barkings, illu-  
minated goggles, sighs, sobs, *yexes*, gasps, and groans.  
*Character of a Fanatic (Harleian Miscellany).*

**Yox**, preterite of yex.

**Yoxen**, past participle of yex.

**Yode**, preterite of ye, and yede, to go.

Before them *yode* a lusty taberere.—*Chaucer.*

The king of France before him *yode.*  
*MS. Lincoln (Halliwell).*

**Yold**, preterite of yield.

The earth *yold* its fruits.—*Wicliffe's Bible.*

The child they to Clement *yold.*—*Halliwell.*

**Yoly**, handsome, smart, young ; possibly the same as, or a misprint for, the French *joli*, whence the modern 'jolly.'

Towards her came a knight,  
Gentle she thought and a *yoly* man.  
*MS. Cantab. (Halliwell).*

**Yow**, to reap, gathering the corn under the arm.—*Halliwell.*

**Yon**, that or those, as distinguished from this and these ; whence *yonder*, or yon-there, that which is there.

*Yon* pleasant hills ;  
The sun shines sweetly on.  
*The Demon Lover.*

**Yond**, distant, strange.

Nares defines this word to mean 'furious, savage,' a total miscomprehension of the meaning.

**Yonderly**, shy, timid, retiring.

**Yonste**, grace, favour, affection ; from the German *gunst*.

The very *yonste* and good will that I bear to you.  
*Caxton's Reynard the Foxe.*

**Yore**, the preterite of year, to increase in years, to grow old ; whence *yore*, the days of old, the olden time, the time that yeared, or *yore*.

**Yorne**, aged, of the days of old, or of *yore*. The word is not uncommon in Scotland, and the North of England, in the sense of 'long ago,' antique, venerable.

**Yotæn**, a giant, from the Norse *jotun*.

**Youthy**, having the false and affected appearance of youthfulness ; applied to an old person of either sex, who dresses, talks, and otherwise behaves as if still young.

I warrant she's no less than three score : but she's as *youthy* as if she werena out o' her teens.—*Jamieson.*

**Yowe**, a ewe, Northern and Scottish.

The death and dying words of poor Mailie, the author's only pet *yowe*.—*Burns.*

**Yowf**, to bark in a gruff manner, as distinguished from yelp, to bark in a shrill, sharp manner.

Then Jowler he began to *yowff*.

*The Gruesome Carle, Blackwood's Magazine.*

A strange dog coming in among them, they all set up a barking, with their faces up to heaven, howling, yelling, and *yowffing*.

*Law's Memorials.*

**Yowl**, to howl vehemently.

The greyhound arose, and began to *yowl* upon them.

*M.S. Bodleian (Halliwell).*

The young priest began to stare at the windows, and the men in green baize began to set up a *yowl* so dismal, that you might have fancied them the very dogs.

*Letters from Rome, Daily Telegraph, December 29, 1866.*

**Yoyster**, to frolic, to laugh loudly.

**Yule**, Christmas ; an ancient word—lately re-introduced into literature by the poets. The etymology has never been satisfactorily traced ; though all the languages of Northern Europe have been ransacked for the purpose. Perhaps we ought to look to the ancient Druids for the root. Their word for the mistletoe—which with the holly has been consecrated to this season from time immemorial, was the Celtic or Gaelic *Uile-ioc*, or heal-all,—the first syllable of which may be the long-lost etymon. Possibly the early Christians, after the downfall of Druidism, found the ancient word applicable to the birthday of Jesus—the *Healer*, or Saviour of *all*—and adopted it accordingly.

**Yule**, to keep Christmas.

**Yuling**, keeping Christmas.—*Halliwell*.

**Yuly**, beautiful.

A captain's wife most *yuly*.

*Wright's Provincial Glossary.*

THE END.

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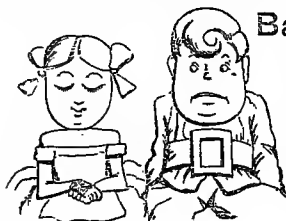
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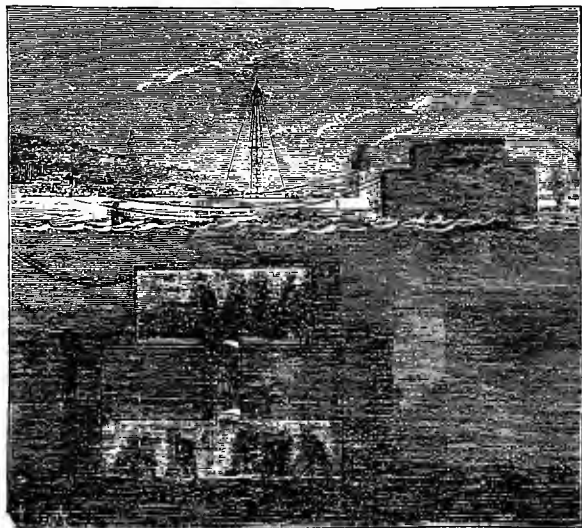
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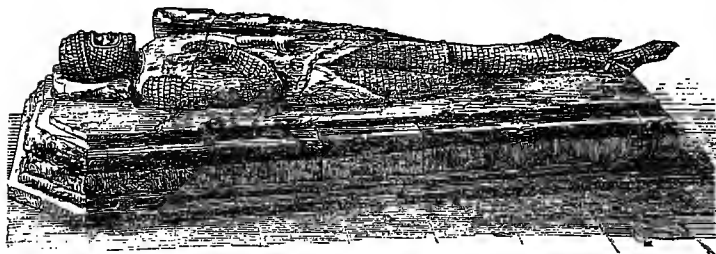
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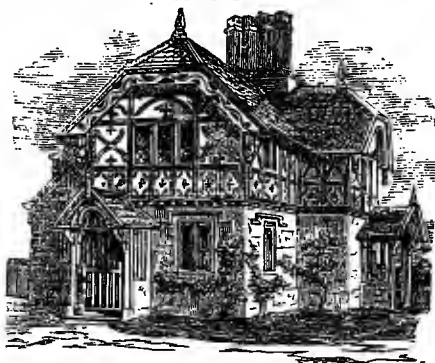
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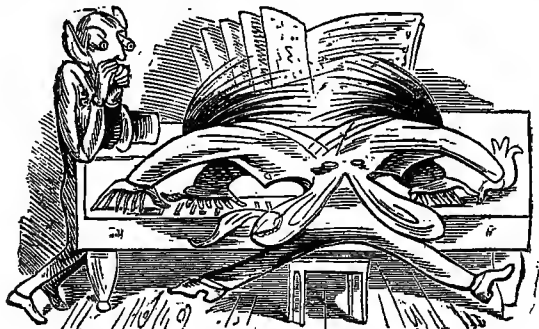
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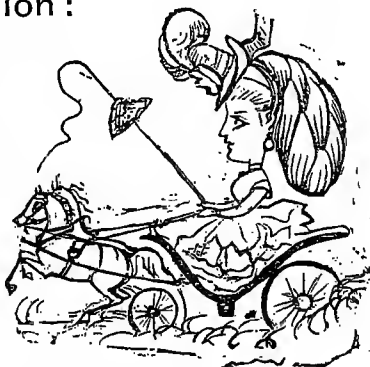
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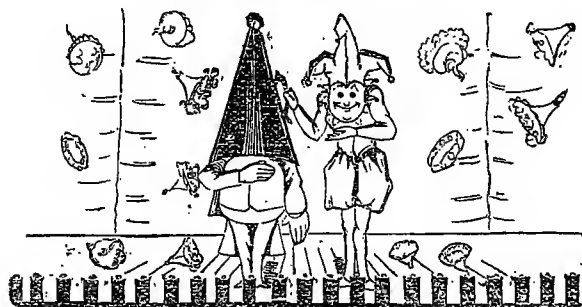
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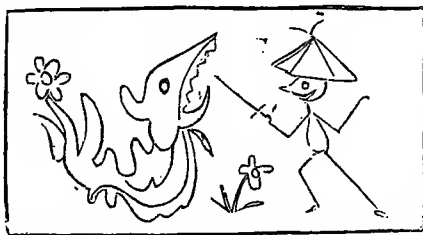
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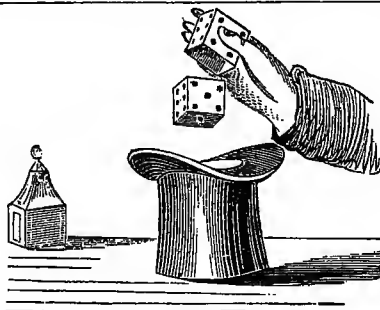


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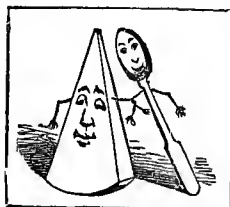
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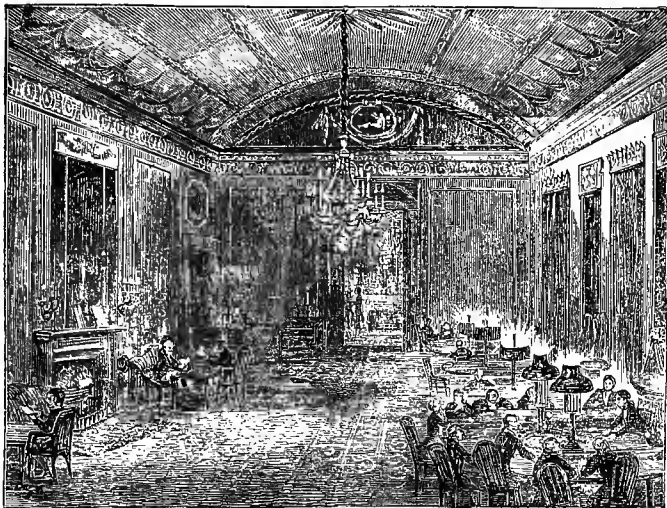
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